CANNOCK & RUGELEY
thechronicle
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AN EDITION OF THE CANNOCK AND LICHFIELD CHRONICLE

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Struggling businesses to suffer as festive shoppers charged

PARKING BLOW TO HIT TRADERS

TRADERS across the Chase say they will suffer a huge blow by Cannock Council's decision not to allow free parking in the run-up to Christmas.

Cannock Chase Council's ruling Cabinet last week decided against free parking for shoppers on the last two Saturdays before Christmas.

District Council leader Neil Stanley told the meeting last Thursday (November 25) that if the authority did not charge commuters to park in December the cost would pass on to taxpayers.

It would lead to a 0.15 per cent increase in council tax and it would be unfair to other people, especially the elderly, he said.

"Why should they pay, those who do not use cars or have money to run cars?" he said.

The Cabinet decided to charge the minimum on December 11 and 18.

Councillor Stanley added that car park rates were still cheaper than Stafford, Burton upon Trent, Walsall, Wolverhampton and Birmingham, while Councillor Tony Williams, Cannock Chase Council Environment Leader, said: "Having a minimum charge will encourage shoppers into the town centres and will encourage them to stay for the day.

Concerns

"We want to help traders, while also being conscious of the difficult budget we have to set for 2011-12 and the many people in the district who use public transport."

However, businesses say the decision was a big blow, especially at a time when many are struggling.

Some traders already have growing concerns for the future and Natal Chapman, chairman of the Cannock Traders Association, said: "I am really disappointed in the lack of compassion shown by the council towards the local traders. Businesses usually struggle in the New Year but this is going to make things a lot more difficult, especially with the VAT increase that is due next year.

"Many of the traders say what a huge blow this is as free parking would have hugely benefited their businesses as well as shoppers at this already expensive time of year.

"It is fair to say that everyone is very concerned about this.

"We have had free parking over the last few years and by not talking this move through with the traders it shows the council obviously don't understand what a knock-on effect this will have in the long term."

Mike Brazier, Chairman of Rugeley Traders Association, said: "The councils support towards the traders is truly terrible.

"This year businesses are really getting stuck in and doing whatever they can over the Christmas period to draw in customers, but the council now seem to think this means local businesses no longer need their backing.

"This is definitely not the case and traders are currently very upset with the decision that has been made especially because other towns are getting free car parking.

"I heard that for the council to offer free parking for two Saturdays would lose them £13,000 – but this is nothing to them.

"If the council carry on like this then we shan't have a town centre and we will lose far more than £13,000. I just don't understand why they can't make their cut backs elsewhere."

George Adamson, Labour councillor for Hednesford Green Heath, said: "I am very worried about what sort of effect this is going to have on the traders who are already struggling at the moment.

"I believe the decision that has been made is very ignorant and the committee have completely ignored the wants and needs of the traders in order for them to make more money."

by SARAH HAZELWOOD

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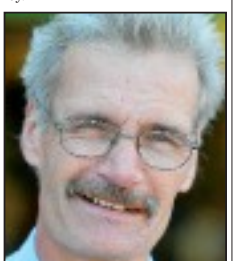
Councillor Stanley – 'unfair'

Natal Chapman – 'disappointed'



Mike Brazier – 'terrible'

L to r: Marion Hodson and Julie Wright from Rugeley

It's a winter wonderland

SNOW and arctic temperatures have caused chaos across the region.

Cannock appeared to have escaped the worst of the conditions.

However, Three Rugeley schools – Chase View Primary, Hagley Park Sports College and Fairoak – told pupils to stay home on Tuesday (November 30) as ungritted roads and pathways meant it was unsafe.

There were more school closures the following day as Great Wyrley Performing Arts High School and Kingsmead Tecnhology College in Hednesford were both shut.

Drivers have been warned of more treacherous conditions on the road, with temperatures expected to plummet to -5 (23F).

● Round-up– see page 3

Pledge is made on health site

STAFFORDSHIRE County Council has pledged to "take up the mantle" of the protracted Greenwood House development in Burntwood if South Staffordshire Primary Care Trust (PCT) withdraws its involvement.

The health centre, proposed three years ago, faces a funding shortfall after the PCT and its private backers decided to "review needs".

More than 2,500 residents had their say on the plans a year ago, voting to support the preferred two-site option of Greenwood House and Burntwood Leisure Centre after a three-month consultation. That would see eight GP practices and several health services split on the two sites.

Development of the leisure centre location will still go ahead but Greenwood House, on Lichfield Road, has been left in limbo. Councillors from Staffordshire County Council and Lichfield District Council were due to meet yesterday (Wednesday 1) to discuss what to do next.

The county council's cabinet member for adults and wellbeing, Matthew Ellis, said he was keen to understand why the current Greenwood House business model did not stand up.

"I know the NHS do things in a specific way so I've put a team of my officials together to see if there is an opportunity for the county council to do something," he said. "If there is a genuine and clear need to do this, we need to find a way of achieving it. On the face of it this is an advantageous idea to the people of Burntwood."

Genuine need

Councillor Ellis stressed he was not making any promises and that it would have to make financial sense for the council to get involved. "It's very important we take up the mantle and we can make it more affordable," he added.

"But it does need to be a genuine need in the current financial circumstances."

Burntwood North county councillor Steve Tranter said the news made a mockery of the consultation. "Everybody in Burntwood gets promised things that just never happen," he said. "We're always second best."

Paul Atkins, member for Burntwood South, added: "All other areas around here have had a new health centre but Burntwood hasn't."

Outline plans for the two health centre were passed by the Strategic Health Authority and the PCT in June. A target was then made for the sites, which would house GP surgeries, offices for PCT staff and facilities for social care and mental health, to be open in 2013.

Wendy Kerr, PCT finance director, said given the tough economic climate and the fact the amount of accommodation required has reduced, the Greenwood House development was potentially less economically viable.

She added: "The PCT does remain committed to improving accommodation and facilities in Burntwood and is considering another and preferred option of substantially refurbishing Burntwood Health Centre which will provide accommodation for both the Fulfen Practice and the Spires Practice and enable additional clinical services to be provided.

"Prior to making a final decision a full option appraisal on the feasibility of continuing with the Greenwood House development is being completed."

Sandra Fraser, left, who chairs the Dog A.I.D. charity, Steve Leonard, Yvonne Cox and Darren Young at Avon Business & Leisure Centre

Top dog Leonard collars £867

TAILS were well and truly wagged when a dog charity bagged a large donation at a Cannock event starring TV vet Steve Leonard.

Dog A.I.D. hosted an evening with Steve, best known for his appearances on BBC2 series Vets in Practice, at the town's Avon Business & Leisure Centre, in Avon Road.

Steve, who is the patron of the charity, spent the evening on Saturday, November 20, entertaining the gathering with tales of his experiences with both wild and domestic animals.

Charity organisers were then presented with a cheque for £867.94 by Yvonne Cox and Darren Young.

Yvonne and Darren have been fundraising for dog charities ever since their pet Doberman Twilly passed away as a result of lymphoma in 2006.

Dog A.I.D. secretary Erica Bennett said: "It was a wonderful shock for all at the event when Dog A.I.D. was presented with the big cheque especially as it was big in more ways than one.

"Receiving a donation of this size will make such a difference to the charity, which relies entirely on donations and voluntary help."

Dog A.I.D. (Assistance in Disability) is a national voluntary organisation which provides specialised training for people with physical disabilities and their own pet dog.

For more information about Dog A.I.D visit **www.dogaid.org.uk** or call Sandra on 01743 891314.

Arty gift stalls fair a real cracker

Chloe Bennett, 13, of Aldridge, on her craft stall

Maureen Craddick, of Penkridge, with craft cards

Shirley Ingram, from Burntwood, sets out her Bags of Ideas & Gifts stall in the Memorial Hall

BURNTWOOD Lions hosted a craft and gift fair to raise money for disabled and disadvantaged children.

People from across Staffordshire were invited to browse more than 50 stalls at Burntwood Memorial Hall, in Rugeley Road.

Chasetown High School Jazz Band entertained visitors last weekend, creating an early seasonal atmosphere as people looked around the stalls that were selling a range of goods.

These included Christmas decorations, jewellery, toys, clocks, candles, handbags, cakes, teddy bears, pens, hats, hand made cards and scarves.

John Wallage, Burntwood Lions' fundraising chairman, said he was impressed with the turnout last Saturday, November 27, at what was the eighth annual craft and gift fair put on by the organisation.

Mr Wallage said proceeds would ensure more than 200 disabled and disadvantaged children from across Staffordshire can be treated to a festive morning out at Chasewater Railway this Saturday, December 4.

Heroin driver mowed down riders in road

A MOTORIST high on heroin who mowed down two cyclists and then wrecked a woman's car was jailed for 16 months.

One of the cyclists hit on the Wolverhampton to Penkridge road – a Cheslyn Hay man – broke his back and now has to wear a brace.

Addict Jack Hayward just accelerated away and, after stopping to change a wheel, ploughed into a car in Cannock. Nick Burn, prosecuting, told Stafford Crown Court that Hayward's Fiat, lurching along on its rims, was finally stopped in the town by a police officer running alongside and grabbing the keys.

Hayward, aged 26, of Winston Churchill Court, Bilston, admitted dangerous driving.

Judge John Maxwell imposed the maximum two-year sentence, but had to cut it by a third because he pleaded guilty.

The judge told him: "This is such a bad case of dangerous driving, I'm also going to disqualify you for three years."

Hayward must take an extended test before having his licence back.

Mr Burn said the incident started on the A449 at Coven where a motorist saw Hayward's Fiat pull out from a layby in front of a car which had to swerve.

The witness saw the Fiat zigzag from lane to lane of the dual carriageway before trying to undertake a Renault Clio. Two cyclists were in the nearside lane and the witness watched in horror as the Fiat struck them. One rider suffered a bad cut on the elbow, sprained arm and shoulder and lacerations from the hip down.

But Paul Westwood, from Cheslyn Hay, broke his back in two places, damaged a leg and was left with lumps on his skull. He cannot walk far and is in constant pain, Mr Burn said.

Hayward sped away before stopping to change a wheel, helped by two passers-by. A short time later, in Crab Lane, Cannock, he struck a car. Police then came across the Fiat in Common Lane, limping along at 5mph, sparks flying from wheel rims.

Jail after mayhem on A449

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Fury at drivers parking on kerb

CANNOCK Chase Council's joint parking committee is to look at whether motorists could be issued tickets for parking with wheels on pavements.

Old Penkridge Road resident Albert Haywood called for action to be taken at a meeting of Cannock Community Forum.

He asked why parking enforcement officers employed by the council were not ticketing people parking with two wheels on pavements.

The council's waste and engineering services manager, Joss Presland, said tickets could only be issued on those roads covered by a traffic regulation order. Otherwise it was a matter for police to issue tickets if cars caused an obstruction.

Forum chairman Councillor Gordon Alcott promised that the issue would be put on the agenda for the next meeting of the joint parking committee in January.

Arriva's passes promise

BUS passengers in Cannock who have experiencing problems with a new scanning system have been told they need not buy new passes.

Arriva has had the hi-tech devices fitted to their buses across the town, and said passengers had been wrongly advised by drivers to buy new cards.

The swipe system was installed to speed up boarding, but fails to recognise some passes.

Arriva communications manager Keith Myatt said: "So long as passengers are using their cards within their specified times they will just need to present it to the driver, as before, who will manually override the scanner to provide a ticket."

In harmony

A SENIOR citizens' Christmas concert is being held at Avon Business & Leisure Centre, Avon Road, Cannock, on from 1.15pm-3.15pm on December 14. It will feature Cannock Ex-Servicemen's Club Male Voice Choir and Break Out Theatre from Chase Day Services.

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Animal magic as £740 raised

STAFF at a Cannock pet shop are celebrating after helping to raise more than £740 for an animal charity.

Pet workshops and other activities were arranged by the Cannock Pets at Home store in October to help Support Adoption For Pets.

Store workers took part in the activities which were held in order to raise awareness and funds for several animal welfare organisations.

The national fundraising drive started on October 8 and finished on October 15, with the Cannock store raising £741.

Store manager Steve Spiers said: "We've been holding our national fundraising weeks twice a year for the last couple of years as they've proven to be a great way to increase awareness of pet adoption and raise money for Support Adoption For Pets.

"The response from customers was fantastic and the money will be used to support local rescues and re-homing centres which are working hard to find new loving homes for pets within the community."

Healthy eating is triumph

MEMBERS of the Moorhill Fun Club proved they hadn't bitten off more than they could chew when they tested their culinary capabilities.

Forty-five children who attend the Moorhill Primary School, Pye Green Road, in Cannock, had to create a healthy meal with ingredients that cost the same as a chocolate bar, packet of crisps and a can of fizzy pop.

The challenge, supported by Asda Cannock, was part of a scheme devised and funded by Cannock Chase Council's community wellbeing arts service.

Children were split into teams and had to create their own menu consisting of a starter, a main and a pudding.

The cook-off was filmed and is being added to a council-run website, **www.thegoodlife.uk.net**, which is an initiative designed to encourage fitness and health.

Art teacher Sue Simpson, Katherine Prestige and Cannock Lions' Graham Stanyer

Poster girl Katherine wins

A CHASE Academy student brushed off her competitors to take first prize in a prestigious art competition.

Year 8 pupil Katherine Prestige, aged 13, picked up first prize in the contest organised by the Cannock Lions Club by designing a poster depicting a 'Vision of Peace.

Budding artists throughout the world have been taking part in similar competitions organised by Lions Club International who considering current conflict decided on this year's theme of peace. Lions Club International settled on a Vision of Peace in order to emphasise its importance to young people throughout the world.

Graham Stanyer, youth chairman of Cannock Lions, said: "Each year astounds me with the quality of the posters and with the situation in Afghanistan, the young students can really give peace some thought through their artwork."

Katherine also had her poster judged at district level and came in at third place.

All the entries from the Chase Academy School students have been put on display at the Cannock Library.

Winter wonderland, but schools forced to close

SNOW and arctic temperatures brought chaos to the roads and led to school closures in Cannock Chase district

Three Rugeley schools – Chase View Primary, Hagley Park Sports College and Fairoak – told pupils to stay home as ungritted roads and pathways made it unsafe even to walk.

On Wednesday, both Great Wyrley Performing Arts High School and Kingsmead Technology College, in Hednesford, also closed.

About two inches of snow fell overnight on Monday, November 29, and more has followed since.

The fall was less than had been expected last week, but more flurries were forecast. The Met Office has warned of -5C (23F) temperatures, freezing any fallen snow and making driving conditions treacherous.

The three Rugeley schools reported they were closed early on with one headteacher saying it was unsafe for pupils to approach the school gates.

Chase View Primary's headteacher, Andrew Minott, said he had been forced to close the school to its 150 pupils because the steep access pathway and road has not been gritted.

"At the moment I am very disappointed and upset that we can't open the school."

Hagley Park Sports College, in Burnthill Lane, Rugeley, also closed. An announcement made on the college's website stated: "The decision has been made to close the school today due to adverse weather conditions."

A Celebrating Success event due to take place at the college on Tuesday night was postponed.

Fairoak School, in Penkridge Bank Road, was also closed.

West Midlands Fire Service reported that call-outs to flooding caused by pipes bursting in the freezing conditions had doubled since Sunday morning. Crews have been called to 71 homes.

Gritting lorries were out in force across the region at night.

The Cross Keys pub, in Penkridge, alongside a frozen Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal

Alan Dean clears the steps of the Civic Centre in Beecroft Road, Cannock

A wintry scene in Lichfield with the cathedral in the background

All white on the night in Cannock town centre following the first of the week's snowfall

Safety theme in town centre

A SAFETY day is being held in Cannock next week to ensure residents have a merry Christmas.

Cannock Chase Council has joined up with organisations across the district to raise awareness of potential hazards this winter and to ensure everybody stays safe.

The Cannock Chase Community Safety Day is being held at the new bandstand in Cannock town centre next Friday, December 10, from 1pm until 6pm.

Shoppers will be offered information by several organisations .

Councillor Tony Williams, environment leader, said: "The community safety day is a great way to show Cannock Chase district residents how a number of organisations are all working together to make our communities safe places to live, work and visit.

Visitors can try out a driving simulator to show the effects of drink driving, Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service will be on hand to offer information, and police will be revealing measures to prevent people from becoming victims of crime.

Santa's tea date

VISITORS to Wolseley Bridge Garden Centre can take breakfast and tea with Father Christmas.

Ian Byrne, manager of the centre near Rugeley, said: "Children who come to our morning or afternoon events will have the chance to meet Father Christmas and receive a gift.

"People interested in booking places at either of the events should call the garden centre for dates and times. Children must be accompanied by an adult."

The breakfast costs £7.99 per child and includes a hot meal. Breakfast for adults accompanying children costs from £3.49.

Choir guests

GREAT Wyrley Townswomen's Choir will be entertaining members of Cheslyn Hay & District Local History Society next Thursday, December 9, at 7.30pm in the Salem, High Street. Admission is £1 and includes refreshments.

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Link road benefits on show

A DISPLAY showcasing a Hednesford regeneration project has gone on tour. It features information about the Pye Green Valley scheme, including the work schedule and the benefits it should bring to the area.

Staffordshire County Council started work on the major project this year after Cannock Chase Council approved detailed plans in 2009. The first display, at the Co-op supermarket in Anglesey Street, Hednesford, runs until tomorrow (Friday). It will then move on to Pye Green Valley Primary School, in Rose Hill, from December 6-17.

Councillor Robert Marshall, cabinet member for regeneration and infrastructure at Staffordshire County Council, said: "We understand that residents want and need to be kept informed about the Pye Green Valley link road and we have put a number of measures in place.

"This touring display offers a great opportunity for people to see the benefits of what the link road will bring to the community. Residents can also request a site visit or ask the team questions over the phone."

The county council is carrying out the project to create the Pye Green Link Road while Cannock Chase District Council provides planning expertise.

Initially it will run from the junction of Cannock Road and Belt Road, temporarily ending at a turning point mid-way between Stanley Road and Rose Hill.

Once completed, it will link Belt Road, Cannock Road and Stafford Lane to Green Heath Road.

The £3m scheme is expected to take 13 weeks.

Insights into employment

THE Cannock branch of a national employment and training firm was opening its doors today (Thursday) to give employers an insight into the company.

JHP Employability provides a range of services to employers and individuals to help towards employment requirements.

Local employers were invited to the Cannock office which is based in the Prospect Business Park, off Longford Road.

The open day was due to run from from 10am until 2pm and employers were able to see what JHP has to offer them in terms of assisting and supporting unemployed people back into the workplace.

Local employers were offered the chance to mingle with JHP's current partners. Similar businesses were invited to share experiences.

JHP offers trial work placements, pre-employment training and fee-free recruitment services.

Crocked footballer achieves business goal

Danny McGhee accepts his award from Gill Hamer, of Business Link

A FORMER Hednesford Town footballer whose dreams were shattered by serious injury has won a prestige award for setting up his own coaching business.

Danny McGhee, from Aldridge, Walsall, won a Prince's Trust Enterprise Award.

The 28-year-old former midfielder for the Pitmen set up his own freestyle football coaching business after suffering a knee injury which ended his playing career.

After 12 months, his business – Global Freestyle, in Station Road, Aldridge – claims to be the top freestyle football agency in the UK, with big name clients including Coca Cola and British Gas. Last week, Danny's achievement was honoured at the Prince's Trust Celebrate Success awards ceremony at Villa Park, Birmingham.

Following his injury, Danny lived on benefits for six months before coming up with the idea of coaching freestyle football.

Appeared

"I've been on such an amazing journey over the past 12 months," he said. "I can't believe how far I've come after struggling on benefits for so long and I'm absolutely thrilled to win this award."

Danny started his business with just a few fliers and then approached the trust, which helped him put together a business plan and gave him a low-interest loan and business mentor. He now runs skills schools across the Black Country and some of his freestyle footballers have performed in Dubai and in front of a capacity crowd at Old Trafford – as well as auditioning for television's Britain's Got Talent.

Danny also appeared in an Australian TV commercial promoting the 2010 World Cup.

Proud father Angus McGhee described his son's achievements as incredible.

The Prince's Trust works with 14 to 30 year olds who have struggled at school, in care, are long-term unemployed or have been in trouble with the law.

Lantern display in parks

LANTERN festivals are taking place in Hednesford and Rugeley next week featuring live music and entertainment.

Hednesford Park hosts a free festival on Tuesday, December 9, from 6-8pm, and Elmore Park in Rugeley, follows suit the next evening.

Community groups, schools and organisations will be showcasing giant lanterns that they have been busy creating with the help of Cannock Chase Council's community well-being officers and local artists.

Funding was secured through the council's community and learning partnerships.

Before the lantern festivals begin, a lantern parade will arrive at each park.

Parades will also be held in Norton Canes and on the Bevan Lee estate in Cannock.

Councillor Tony Williams, Cannock Chase Council's environment leader, said: "It's great to see our parks being used for big community events like the lantern festivals."

Tributes to driver killed in mystery road smash

THE family of a man killed in a road accident in Cheslyn Hay have paid tribute to a "much-loved son and brother".

Ben Houghton, aged 25, died after his black Honda Civic left the road at about 1.30pm on Saturday, November 20, in Old Landywood Lane, between Cheslyn Hay and Essington.

It is understood Mr Houghton, who lived at The Nook, Cheslyn Hay, had left his vehicle in Wolverhampton after a trip to the cinema on Friday evening and was returning home.

In a statement, his parents said: "With the sudden and untimely loss of our beloved son, Ben, we would like to thank all family and friends for their support and kindness shown to us during this very sad time. Ben was a much loved son and brother and will be sadly missed by all his family, friends and work colleagues."

An ambulance rapid response vehicle was sent to the scene. Mr Houghton was in cardiac arrest and was given CPR by the paramedics, but they could not revive him.

Staffordshire Police have appealed for any witnesses to the accident to come forward. They are also seeking information from anyone who may have witnessed the movements of the Honda leading up to the accident.

Anyone who can help is urged to contact senior investigating officer Sgt Mick Scott or Pc Pete Lamb on 0300 123 4455, quoting incident 481 of November 20.

Councillor for the village Mike Lawrence said he used the road regularly and did not believe there were major safety concerns.

"The county council as highways authority will review the safety on Old Landywood Lane if the police recommend it," he said.

Ben Houghton

Cheslyn Hay Parish Council chairman Councillor Bob Denson said there had been previous accidents on the road, a busy commuter route, which was within neighbouring Great Wyrley Parish Council's area.

"It is used by villagers as a route into the conurbation and during the rush hour traffic is quite often at a standstill, but outside those times it can be dangerous.

"The main problem in Old Landywood Lane is when it is foggy or icy."

Councillor Denson said it was likely that the parish council would be discussing whether any safety measures should be recommended.

Ken Walker, seated and Pete Keenan from Greenwood Studios, pictured with youngsters (left to right): Becky Lines, Lauren Greaves, Oliver Mason and Brett Greaves at the Craft Animation Group meeting at Norton Canes Library.

Sounds like a big hit

GREENWOOD Studios have proved to be a success at a library near Cannock.

The company has set up an animation course at the library in Burntwood Road, Norton Canes.

Although people of any age can join in the fun, the course is primarily aimed at children.

In the course, the children have the opportunity to record short films, creating characters and storyboards and it has proved popular.

A spokesman for Norton Canes library said: "It has been a fantastic experience.

"The children have thoroughly enjoyed it so far and are eager to continue.

"I would recommend the course to everyone."

The course was set up to mark the library's first anniversary after being rebuilt last year.

It runs every Thursday from 4pm until 6pm for the eight weeks up until Christmas.

Festival of trees

A CHASETOWN church hosts a Christmas Tree Festival this weekend.

Rev Vivienne Hatton has invited parishioners to bring along a decorated tree to St Anne's, in Church Street, before the celebration begins at 10am tomorrow (Friday).

Val Stratton, of St Anne's, said: "This is a chance for the whole family to join together, select a theme and decorate a tree for everyone to enjoy.

"We hope the community come out in force to celebrate.

The festival is open tomorrow from 10am to 7pm, Saturday from 10am to 5pm and Sunday from noon to 3.30pm, with children's carols at 3pm on Saturday and a Sunday All Age Worship at 10.15am.

Sunday best for wrestlers

K Star Wrestling presents a show in Cannock this weekend.

The Merry Mayhew show is being staged at Edward Street Club on Sunday, December 4, at 7pm. Tickets cost £5 from 07974 658170.

Village street fair's market move declared a sparkling success

VILLAGERS at Penkridge got into the Christmas spirit early at the annual Victorian street fair .

The street fair moved to a new location this year at Penkridge Market.

Penkridge Business Association said that last Friday's event could not be held in its usual village centre location because of overhead lighting problems.

Local traders and charities ran stalls at the fair selling a range of items from festive gift ideas to various food treats.

Craftsmen and women showed off their skills with a range of items available for purchase, while musical accompaniment was provided by Bridgtown Concert Band, from Cannock.

Stalls association chairman Anne Geoghegan said that there were more than 70 stalls this year.

Penkridge and District Round Table arranged for Father Christmas to put in an appearance with his sleigh to keep children entertained. The youngsters also made the most of a fun fair and spent time looking at birds of prey.

Most of the stallholders made a special effort by donning Victorian costumes.

Town crier Bevan Craddock declared the street fair open.

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Stilettos point to fair sum

PRIMARY school pupils in Longdon, near Rugeley, put their best foot forward with fundraising at their Christmas fair.

Children at St James C of E Primary have been raising money towards equipment for the school's ICT suite and early years outdoor centre by helping their head mistress with Mrs Slymn's Shoe Shuffle.

Michelle Slymn, known as "the head in the heels", has been raising funds by showcasing her collection of tall footwear and by inviting pupils, staff and local residents to guess the amount she has worn.

The school raised around £500 at the Christmas Fair which is being put towards new computer equipment and an outdoor canopy protecting the pupils from the elements.

Mrs Slymn hopes the acquisitions will culminate in the school being upgraded from good to outstanding by Ofsted. As well as the Shoe Shuffle stall, there was a pocket money stall, cake stall and a Christmas gift stall.

Mrs Slymn said: "The children are forever fascinated with my shoes.

"The Shoe Shuffle has been a really fun and creative initiative for the children to get involved in raising funds themselves whilst joining forces with staff, parents and residents."

Anyone who wishes to donate towards the ICT suite and outdoor centre can call the school on 01543 490378.

Italian job as Nolan sings for his supper

DINERS can get in the festive spirit at an Italian restaurant near Rugeley.

Il Marchigiano's Italian restaurant, based at the Plum Pudding, in Armitage, will be welcoming singer Nolan Terry to perform at the venue every Friday throughout December as part of its weekly party nights.

Terry's first performance takes place tomorrow night (Friday). The event also includes a three course meal cooked by top Italian chef Giuseppe Iaconi, and tickets for the events are priced £20.

Plum Pudding owner Roma Fiero, said: "We have booked Nolan Terry for every Friday in December and we are really looking forward to it. He has performed here before and we have always had great feedback from our customers."

Terry will also be performing at the venue on New Year's Eve. To book, log on to www.the plumpudding.co.uk or call 01543 490330.

Life of VC Sir Evelyn goes under hammer

TREASURES from Britain's military history go under the hammer at an auctioneers in Penkridge tomorrow.

An autobiography written by Sir Evelyn Wood and a letter he wrote to his aunt following his travels across the world are set to be sold at the Cuttlestones auction house in Pinfold Lane.

Record of the Life of Major-General Sir Evelyn Wood 1838 to 1888' was written by one of Britain's most decorated military figures and passed on to his son.

Sir Evelyn played an active role the British Army from 1854 until 1907 and served in campaigns such as the Crimean War, the Indian Mutiny, the third Anglo-Ashanti War, the Anglo-Zulu War, the first Boer War and the Mahdist War.

Sir Evelyn's endeavour earned him a Victoria Cross as well as many other notable medals.

Exceptional

This first edition volume is expected to attract a lot of interest from military collectors and those with an interest in the Victorian period, say the auctioneers.

The letter which is also being auctioned at Friday's sale is addressed to "Dearest Aunt" and was posted on February 17, 1882, following Sir Evelyn's return from travels to Africa, Italy and Paris. It tells of momentous meetings with the Secretary of War, the Earl of Kimberley, and Queen Victoria.

Ben Gamble, head auctioneer at Cuttlestones, said: "This gives a fascinating insight into the life of one of our great military figures. Plain signatures from Sir Evelyn have generated significant interest in the past, so it will be interesting to see what this lot, with its exceptional provenance, will achieve."

For more details about the sale visit **www.cuttlestones.co.uk** or call 01785 714905.

Topple 413ft monster turbine say townsfolk

A WIND turbine towering 413ft above a sewage treatment plant near Burntwood would be a "massive eyesore", according to protesters.

Severn Trent Water has applied to erect a turbine at Burntwood Sewage Treatment, in Peter's Lane, but Burntwood Action Group, formed a year ago to fight proposed development on green belt, is calling on residents to object.

Action group vice-chairman Simon Pearson, of Lichfield Road, said scores of letters had been sent to homes near the proposed site to alert householders.

Mr Pearson said: "As an action group we intend to object and suggest the planning application is rejected because of the effect of proposals on the landscape."

Mr Pearson said the giant turbine would affect the living conditions of residents with turbine noise and shadow flicker.

"The effects of the proposal on our local landscape and wildlife populations alone would be enormous. It will be a massive eyesore."

Decision

Mr Pearson added that the giant structure would also affect wildlife such as bats and that the height of the turbine blades would be taller than Lichfield Cathedral's highest spire at 250ft.

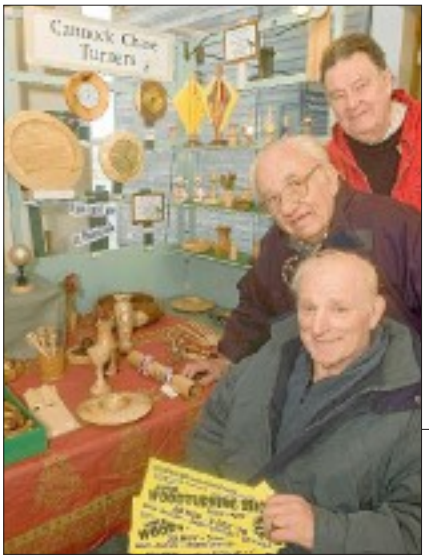
Severn Trent Water intends to place the single wind turbine at the plant for at least 25 years and a temporary access track would be laid to move machinery to and from the site off the A5190 Lichfield Road.

The firm says wind turbines would help it reduce its carbon dioxide emissions.

In a report, Severn Trent says: "Some views from neighbouring dwellings will be affected, but there is not one example where the effect would be considered overwhelming."

A decision by Lichfield District Council is expected by March.

One good turn deserves another



Cannock Chase Turners chairman Bob Saunders, secretary Jed Evans and founder member Michael Baker

Bryn Roberts (left), from Cannock Chase Woodturners giving instruction to show visitor Chris Carter-Vown

Crafts on display at the annual woodturning show at Chasewater

A WOODWORK event is taking place free of charge until this weekend.

The Cannock Chase Turners Annual Woodturning Show is at Chasewater Innovation Centre until Sunday, December 5.

The public is invited to have a go and turners will offer demonstrations daily 10am-4pm. Visitors can also see displays and take part in a raffle.

For the past six years the turners have offered to teach people woodwork techniques ,and hope to encourage new members. This week they are making, amon other items, clock holders, serviette stands, tables, chairs, and small cabinets.

They have about 50 members and about 40 are helping this week. The club meets the second Wednesday of the month at the Methodist Church Hall, Norton Canes.

Secretary Jed Evans said: "We normally pick up a number of people who are interested in doing woodturning and ladies who haven't done it before."

£30,000 on offer to borrowers

A NOT-FOR-PROFIT savings and loans co-operative in Chasetown has announced record deposits.

Pete Selwyn, president of Fusion Credit Union, said loans are at record levels, but people living in the Lichfield District Council area can still make use of £30,000 which is available for qualifying members to borrow.

Mr Selwyn said: "Recently, we heard from a lady who had a loan from a doorstep lender for £1,000 over 55 weeks where the interest payments were over £700. An equivalent loan from Fusion would have cost her less than £90 in interest.

"Our interest rate is fixed at 1 per cent a month with 12.68 per cent APR."

A first loan can be up to £500 and subsequent loans can be up to £2,000. For information, log on to **fusioncreditunion.co.uk** or call 01543 415032.

Saga for John in Norway

A CANNOCK motor parts trader has arrived in Scandinavia to rescue one of the biggest private collections of Land Rovers in the world.

John Craddock and his team drove from Staffordshire to Norway to oversee the handover of nearly 100 Land Rovers, including many rare 4x4 models.

They will look to sell on as many as they can to collectors in Norway before bringing the best examples back to Britain on a fleet of hired low-loaders.

Some of the sturdy vehicles have been converted into ambulances and fire engines.

The collection, which also includes MG, Mini, Jaguar and Range Rover examples, was owned by an enthusiast who kept them in a warehouse in southern Norway, and many are in poor condition.

They were acquired by Mr Craddock as a job lot.

Mr Craddock's interest in Land Rovers traces back to 1968 when he bought a 1948 Series One model for £50 after being smitten by the "charisma" of the Solihull-built vehicles and their ability to tackle almost any kind of terrain.

He started supplying parts for the vehicles, and his business has now grown to become the biggest independent supplier of Land Rover parts in the world, with a staff of around 30 at North Street, Bridgtown, Cannock.

Santa Claus is VIP guest at church do

SANTA CLAUS is spending this weekend finding out what children want for Christmas at the St John's Church festive fair in Cannock.

There will be a range of stalls including tombola, bric-a-brac and a cake sale at the fair which is being held in the church hall in Heath Hayes on Saturday, December 4.

A Christmas food hamper is also up for grabs as first prize in the raffle.

There will also be a selection of hot food and beverages available for visitors.

Entrance to the fair is free and the event runs from 11.30am to 2pm in the hall at the rear of the church in Hednesford Road.

For more information call St John's Church on 01543 278478.

Student fair helps charity

FLEXIBLE Routeway and Entry to Employment students at South Staffordshire College's Cannock campus held a fun day which raised £500 for a cancer charity.

At the college's Skills for Employment Centre, Macmillan Cancer Support was helped by the sale of home-made Christmas cards, cakes, books and a jumble sale. There was also a Name the Tiger competition.

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155-70-13	£30	£18	195-65-15	£40	£22
165-70-13	£30	£18	175-60-14	£38	£22
185-70-14	£37	£21	185-60-14	£35	£20
195-70-14	£40	£22	195-60-15	£40	£22
			185-14 Van	£45	£25
			195-14 Van	£45	£25

PERFORMANCE	NEW
165-55-13	£45
185-55-15	£44
195-45-16	£55
195-50-15	£40
205-40-17	£55
205-45-16	£55
195-55-15	£44
195-45-15	£45
185-55-15 Van	£50
195-55-15 Van	£51

PERFORMANCE	NEW
205-60-15	£47
205-50-15	£45
205-50-16	£50
205-55-15	£45
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Complain, hot tub buyers are urged

TRADING standards bosses issued a renewed appeal for customers left out of pocket by a Rugeley hot tub firm to report complaints to authorities.

The Trade Prince Group is at the centre of a fraud investigation and has filed for bankruptcy. The firm's offices in Anglesey Court, at Towers Business Park, are locked up.

More than 500 customers have complained, and last month detectives arrested four men and a woman in Stafford, Sutton Coldfield and Tamworth on suspicion of conspiracy to defraud.

All five are on police bail until next month.

Paul Nicholls, of Birmingham solicitors Nicholls Bramble, said that the problem goes far beyond Staffordshire.

"I'm acting for about 130 clients from the top of Scotland, to France, across into Wales and the Channel Islands."

Hundreds of customers have complained about the firm, citing problems with its products and delivery delays of up to 10 months.

Deliveries

About 20 customers from all over the UK staged a protest outside the company's offices in September.

The firm which also traded as UK Hot Tubs For Sale and Spa Serve, had denied any wrongdoing and said it was being subjected to a criminal hate campaign.

Staffordshire Trading Standards is asking customers still waiting for deliveries to get in touch as part of its investigations. It has received 400 complaints in two years about Trade Price Group.

'Grandad of village' mourned

MORE than 150 mourners gathered to pay tribute to a parish councillor at his funeral.

Gilbert Robinson, of Uttoxeter Road, Handsacre, died last month, aged 71. He had served Armitage with Handsacre Parish Council for more than a quarter of a century.

Villager Gifford Foote said: "He will be greatly missed by Hayes Meadow Primary School where was been chairman of governors. Headteachers, staff, pupils and parents all had a great respect for Gilbert."

The chairman of governors Graham Stenton, described him as 'the school's adopted grandad and a new computer suite was named the Gilbert Robinson Suite.

Mr Robinson had a daughter, Jennifer, and an adopted daughter, Mary. He is survived by sisters, Margaret and Barbara, and brother, Phillip. His funeral was last Wednesday (November 24) at Armitage Parish Church.

Library supervisor Nicola Speed promotes Tots Time classes at Rugeley Library in Anson Street

Tots time at library

RUGELEY Library has begun running Tots Time classes for children under five.

The Anson Street venue set up the sessions at the beginning of November to help develop interest in the library.

The classes consist of reading, storytelling and singing while the children are also encouraged to be creative with craft sessions.

Library supervisor Nicola Speed said: "The classes are there to encourage interest in the library but also to help the children learn and have fun.

"The classes are themed. At the moment the theme is animals, with the children learning rhymes about different animals each week."

The free classes run on Fridays during school term time from 1.45pm to 2.45pm.

Artwork opened at town complex

DEVELOPER Fred Pritchard will unveil an exhibition by Great Wyrley Art Forum.

The property tycoon will officially open the exhibition at The Lightworks in Market Street, Hednesford at 10.30am tomorrow (Friday).

The exhibition, which runs until December 17, features work produced by forum members who are mainly former art students from Great Wyrley Performing Arts High School. It will be open from 10am to 2pm.

The pieces on show will include paintings, sculptures and photographic work that have been produced over the last year.

The Art Forum meets at Hall Lane school each Wednesday from 5.30-to 8pm and members are encouraged to experiment in different techniques. Anyone interested in joining can call 01922 415064.

The school will be holding its annual presentation and awards evening tomorrow night to celebrate students' success in recent exams.

Fire starts in microwave

FIREFIGHTERS tackled a house blaze after food caught fire in a microwave.

The fire occurred at 12.15pm on Saturday (November 28) in Chenet Way, Cannock.

The house had to be ventilated because of thick smoke. Firefighters left the scene at 12.45pm.

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Ward death after vital jab missed

THE PARTNER of a Hednesford diabetic who died after not being given insulin for more than 24 hours has been giving evidence at the inquiry into Stafford Hospital.

Ron Street said that 66-year-old partner Gillian Astbury, was a 'disciplined diabetic' and he only found out she had not been given her insulin after overhearing a doctor and a nurse.

Their conversation took place after she slipped into a coma. Mrs Astbury's long-term partner, formerly of the Royal Army Medical Corps, said he heard a doctor ask a nurse: "Has Mrs Astbury been given her insulin today?"

The nurse was said to have replied: "Well, I've not long come on duty."

Mr Street asked the doctor if she had been given insulin and was told: "Oh, I'm sure she would have done."

Twenty minutes later, Mr Street told the doctor he overheard the initial conversation and the doctor, according to Mr Street, put his hands up and admitted it appeared that she had not been given her insulin for possibly 48 hours.

Mrs Astbury, a type one diabetic, was at Stafford Hospital after collapsing at her Mavis Road home.

Shocked

Mr Street said: "He (the doctor) said Gill's sugar level is very high and we are doing what we can to get it down."

On the morning of April 10, the same day she slipped into the coma, she was to have a C difficile infection.

Mrs Astbury was pronounced dead at 1.20am the following day.

Mr Street told the inquiry, with hindsight, he wished he had done more to raise an alarm. He said he was shocked to see untouched meals left uncollected, dirty cups, unmarked cups and tablets left out unadministered, drinks beyond reach, soiled swabs on top of the cabinet and soiled sheets two feet away from the bed.

In September, a 10-member jury at an inquest returned a narrative verdict, saying the death was contributed to by a failure of nursing staff to record Mrs Astbury's blood sugar levels, communicate properly with each other and read a clinical note. The inquiry continues.

Five Ways School six-year-olds Chloe Ashford, left, Oliver Green, Lee Tranter, Sophie Bird, Cavan Cockayne and Demi-Leigh Warrilow welcome visiting drummer Vijay Mehay

Pupils' global treats

YOUNGSTERS at a Cannock primary school took part in an international day to help improve their understanding of different cultures.

Each year group at Five Ways Primary School, on Langholm Drive, Heath Hayes, studied a different country before combining to share their newfound knowledge with the rest of the school in a special assembly. They sampled international cuisines, listened to native music, designed arts and crafts and learned traditional dancing.

Year 2 pupils were treated to an Indian drumming workshop with performer Vijay Mehay.

Acting head Michelle Walsh said: "Our pupils have thoroughly enjoyed the day, it's been a real success."

Boost as projects awarded funding

COMMUNITY projects in Great Wyrley and Penkridge are celebrating after grabbing a slice of a £4,000 cashpot to boost their work.

They are among projects in 10 South Staffordshire villages to have been awarded cash in the scheme being piloted by the district Council.

The project was launched in September and was earmarked to support community groups and activities which help bring generations together and help bridge the gap between young and old.

The local projects have each bagged grants of up to £500 toward their work. Councillor Brian Edwards, leader of South Staffordshire Council, will be presenting the groups with their cheques on December 8.

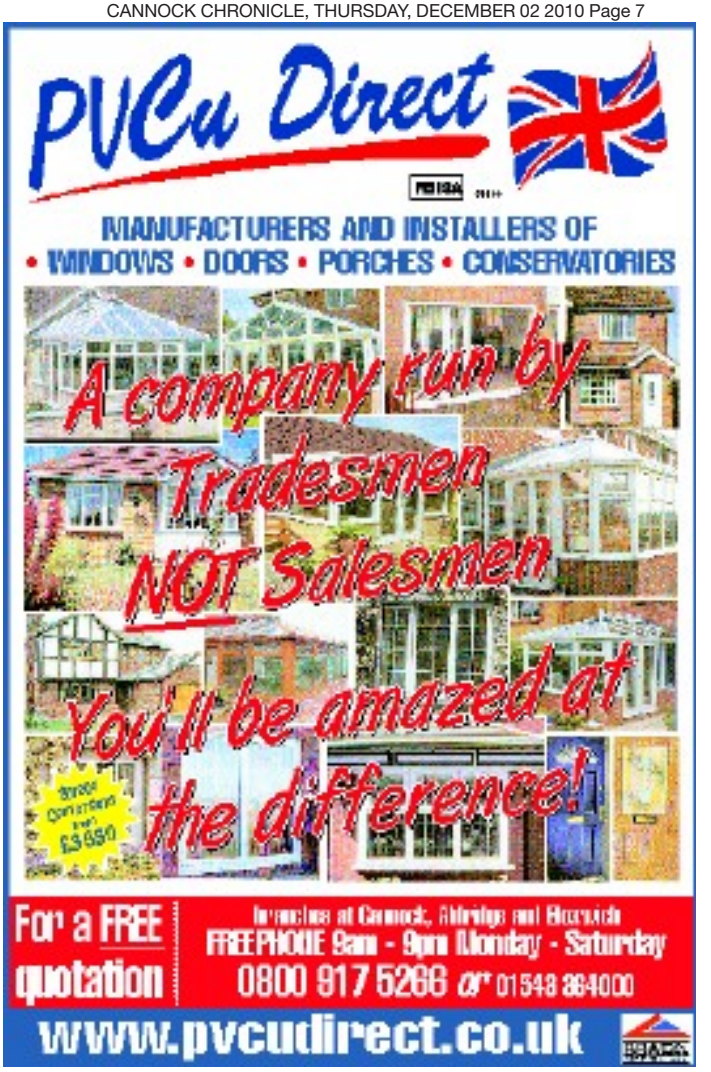
Man flashes at worker

A MAN exposed himself to a hairdresser as she arrived for work in Devon Road, Cannock.

The woman saw him coming out of bushes at 7.45am on Friday, November 19. He is white, 5ft 10in, in his late 30s, and wore a white T-shirt and woolly hat with tassles.

REA meeting

THE Cannock branch Royal Engineers Association hold its monthly meeting on Monday, December 6 at 8pm at the Ex-servicemen's Club, Walsall Road.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Beyond the boundaries of fairness

IN response The Chronicle of November 25. Zaphne Stretton's claim that she has been a member of the Labour Party since 1961, and stood in Hednesford North ward for 17 years, appears to be untrue.

It is my belief that Zaphne Stretton has in the past been an active member in the Conservative Party, and has only served three years as a councillor in the Hednesford North ward.

It does not wash with me, and some stalwart members within the local Labour Party, that she is totally committed to the further development of the Labour Party, or the wishes of the electorate in Hednesford North.

If she had got the interests of the Labour Party at heart, why has she stood against such a good councillor as Doris Grice, who is popular with the electorate and has maintained her seat for 13 years?

And why is she not standing as a candidate in her own ward at Norton Canes?

It seems to me that she is not fighting for Labour to gain control in Cannock Council.

And she is now so obsessed with power, that she and her agent have gone beyond the boundaries of comradeship and fairness, and have now created division in the local Labour Party.

PAUL WITTON
BRUNSWICK ROAD
CANNOCK

Post office a lifeline to real world

I AM worried about the government's plans to privatise Royal Mail and split it from the Post Office Counters network.

At the present time Royal Mail delivers to every address in the UK six days a week.

In many areas, particularly rural communities, the local post office is a lifeline to the outside world.

These are often expensive services to run but for millions of people and businesses they are essential. The Government wants to make Royal Mail attractive to an overseas buyer so is passing legislation to enable it to reduce the level of service it currently provides.

It is also breaking the link between Royal Mail and the post office network.

This will inevitably take away much needed business from local post offices, leaving many at risk of closure especially in rural areas. Keeping Royal Mail in public hands is the only way it can be guaranteed that current services continue and local post offices remain open.

If like me, you are concerned about this privatisation please write to our MP and let them know.

K NICHOLLS
HUNTSMANS WALK
RUGELEY

Warm thanks for bonfire comments

THE management and staff at the Railway Tavern in Norton Canes would like to thank the 'Church Road resident' for their kind comments following our recent bonfire and firework evening.

It is appreciated to receive thanks as considerable effort and cost (insurance for the evening is nearly £900) is involved in making the evening both enjoyable and safe.

We have entertainment every Saturday and some Sunday evenings, always free of charge, where we try to make everyone welcome.

Once again thank you for making our bonfire night a great night.

CAROL & GLEN
LOMAS
RAILWAY TAVERN
NORTON CANES

LETTERS to The Editor are welcomed on any local topic. Write to: Cannock & Lichfield Chronicle, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES or email **cannockchron@expressandstar.co.uk**

Please note that a full name and address must be supplied before being considered for publication. These can be withheld at the author's discretion.

The Editor reserves the eight to cut or not to publish

Views sought on county proposals

BURNTWOOD'S Labour councillors want to hear views on the County Council's proposals to dramatically increase charges services to vulnerable people attending the likes of Day Centres and lunch clubs.

Our Conservative and Independent/Lib Dem County Councillors are keeping their heads down on this and so we are offering to help as District and Town Councillors. People can also contact us via our website hosted by WS7.co.uk

Staffordshire County Council wants to introduce the cost of travel to Day Centres for the first time and almost double the price of hot meals. Despite Conservative and LibDem criticism of means-tested benefits Staffordshire now wants to means test the services older and vulnerable people have enjoyed previously at a flat rate cost.

Local councillors fear this will put some people off even applying in the first place and will lead to further isolation from their local communities.

The official consultation ends on December 31 but many people who are not currently using the services don't realise what it will mean to them if they do need help in the next few years.

Service users, or their carers, can talk to their Summerfield and Chasetown ward Labour councillors this Saturday in Burntwood Library from 10-11am at their advice surgeries.

STEVEN NORMAN
LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCILLOR FOR SUMMERFIELD WARD
BURNTWOOD

A time of reflection

THIS is the first week of Advent
A time of reflection a time to repent
We light a candle for the Lord
And spend the time we can afford

Christmas is a time of joy
With the birth of baby Jesus the little boy
But not everyone wants to celebrate
Others have their priorities they want to relate

But it would be nice for one day
That the peace machine could make the way
I know that there are those who do not agree
But perhaps for once you will pray with me

MICHAEL WETSON
LICHFIELD

Traders are the lifeblood of our towns

EBENEZER Scrooge is alive and well and sits in the Cabinet that runs Cannock Chase Council.

On a serious note, our Lib Dem Cabinet has decided not to allow free parking on the Council's car parks in Cannock and Rugeley on the last two Saturdays before Christmas, despite evidence given to the Council's Scrutiny Committee by the leaders of the traders' associations for Cannock and Rugeley of how important the free parking would be in bringing in trade to our town centres in the run up to Christmas.

They told us that a number of traders in both towns were struggling and needed all of the help that we could give.

Our leaders were having none of this and dismissed the evidence given by the traders, deciding that Cabinet members know best.

They said they did not accept what the traders said and that no cash could be made available. It was a different story in the summer when we were reducing their allowances, then they fought tooth and nail to keep their money and opposed all proposals to reduce them.

I called in the decision for review as I am worried about the future of our town centres and I wanted the Council to help them through a rough time, after all, our small traders are the lifeblood of our town centres.

The traders spoke from the heart but it cut no ice with our arrogant leaders, even though the all party Scrutiny Committee voted to give free parking on the last Saturday before Christmas.

It's about time (Council Leader) Neil Stanley and co started to listen to other people instead of thinking that they know best.

I just hope that our small traders don't suffer as a result of their arrogance.

GEORGE ADAMSON
HUNTINGTON TERRACE ROAD
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Anglers win reel honour

STAFFORDSHIRE Youth Anglers has achieved the Club-mark award.

It is the first angling group in the West Midlands to get the award.

The club is based at Carney Pools, Wolseley Bridge, Rugeley.

The award will be presented by Richard Hadley, regional development officer for the Angling Development Board on Saturday during the club's annual presentation event at Walton Youth Centre, Stafford.

The club, launched by chairman Bradley Parkes, has been running for almost three years.

Earlier this year Bradley, who is aged 20, was selected as a UK Angling Ambassador.

Christmas fair

A CHRISTMAS fair is being held at Heath Hayes Primary School tomorrow (Friday) in aid of new playground equipment. Entry to the event from 5.30-7pm is free, and a stalls can be reserved for £5. Details from Michelle Hunt on 07905 358408.

Jason Bailey and members of a Prince's Trust team raise money by washing cars at Linkway Retail Park

Suds-sidising good causes

YOUNG people on a personal development course carried out a car wash in aid of good causes.

Members of the Prince's Trust Team 246, based in Cannock, washed cars on the Halfords car park at the Linkway Retail Park.

All the proceeds will go towards equipment and other supplies to help maintain the grounds of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, in Hednesford, produce winter gift baskets for the elderly and the homeless, and activities for Chase Day Service in Cannock.

Team members also spent two days bag-packing for customers at Morrisons, in Mill Street, Cannock.

The dozen-strong team started its 12-week course at the beginning of the November. They have already carried out work to tidy up the back of the churchyard.

Cannock Chase Council had agreed to take over the maintenance once the initial work to sort out the problems had been done. The personal development programme for young people aged 16 to 25 runs until the end of January.

The team, which is based at High Green Court in Cannock town centre, also has to undertake a two-week community project in the area.

Anger over adverts on town's war memorial

TOWNSFOLK have described advertising posters on Cannock's war memorial as a disgrace.

The problem was highlighted at a meeting of Cannock Community Forum last week. Residents also complained about the open air market gradually filling up parts of the town.

Old Penkridge Road resident Pauline Haywood said the town centre was becoming like a market area for six days a week.

"I am disturbed that it has become like a car boot sale. It is looking like a tip and is a hazard for people walking with obstructions from rubbish and vehicles. And you can't see the war memorial for advertisement posters – that is disgraceful."

Councillor Diane Bennett said the town centre was being degraded by "tacky" stalls and criticised Cannock Chase District Council for standing by and allowing posters to be put on the railings.

"The memorial is there to remember men who gave their lives for this country," she added.

Planning committee chairman Councillor George Adamson said the council must get the problem under control. He feared traders in the town's indoor market were losing out, and said the council must deal immediately with complaints.

Councillor Adamson said he would be pressing the planning department to take enforcement action, and licensing committee chairman Councillor Frank Allen pledged to raise the issue of the posters at the committee's December meeting.

Senior licensing officer Sean O'Meara said the council did not allow posters to be put on the memorial.

He added that consultation over a new policy on street trading was being carried out as the old policy was no longer fit for purpose.

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Penkridge ex-teacher Robert Maddocks with his book

The civil defence team with a 2000lb bomb in 1943

Penkridge United football team lines up for a photograph in 1910

Village pride in Robert's picture book

A NEW book featuring photographs of the people in the village of Penkridge for more than 120 years has been launched.

Our Noble Selves has been written by retired secondary school teacher Robert Maddocks.

It was put together over a year with the help of members of the town's local history group. The 168-page book, which features 235 photographs, went on sale at a launch event in Penkridge's Haling Dene Centre on Tuesday last week.

Mr Maddocks, aged 60, of Leacroft Road, Penkridge, said 83 of the initial print of 252 copies had been sold on the day and, as a result, he had ordered another 100 to be printed.

Mr Maddocks, who taught at Wolgarston High School, in Penkridge, and Fair Oak School, Rugeley, said that the photographs spanned a period from one taken of Lord Hatherton in 1860 right up to the 1980s.

The aim is to give a taste of how the lives of people in the Staffordshire village have changed over the years.

Most of the photographs have been provided by local people from their family collections and some have come from people who have moved away to other parts of the country but have connections to the Penkridge area. The book, which costs £10 and is published by Great Marsh Publications went on sale at the annual Victorian Christmas street fair in Penkridge last Friday.

It is also available from the Pot Shop, in Crown Bridge, Penkridge Hardware, Stone Cross, and Hawkins Electrical, Market Street.

Our Noble Selves is the fourth book that Mr Maddocks has put together about the village's history.

He has also written detailed pieces on the history of the village, which dates back to Anglo-Saxon times.

● To view any of these pieces or for more information visit **www.penkridge.org.uk/folders/history**.

George Bartlett, above, landlord of the George and Fox, at a 1950s village carnival in Penkridge

Joe Holt, Mr Biggs and Mr Haggis from the council beside a giant beacon, right, built to mark King George V's golden jubilee in 1935

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Upset at boozers in front of church

A COUNCILLOR is calling for police to crack down on people drinking alcohol in the grounds of a Cannock town centre church.

Councillor Mike Sutherland told Cannock Community Forum that in the summer months it was "like a festival" on the grassed churchyard outside St Luke'. Councillor Sutherland praised police for reducing street drinking in recent months, but said he feared problems would occur again when the warmer weather returned.

Inspector Pat Shannaghan, head of the Cannock neighbourhood policing unit, said there were plans to deal with the problem at St Luke's in the spring.

Rumer Hill Residents' Association chairman Anne Ames said many people were complaining about the numbers of people drinking alcohol in town centre streets which was supposed to be an alcohol-free zone.

"It has been disgraceful," she added.

Cannock Chase Council senior licensing officer Sean O'Meara said the town centre was one of five designated public places in the district where police had powers to arrest those who failed to stop drinking alcohol in public when asked to.

Insp Shannaghan said police were targeting individuals who caused problems and were using CCTV.

Councillor John Kraujalis said he was concerned about an increase in people drinking outside pubs in the town centre and the resultant increase in anti-social behaviour. which followed.

Police to join forces

A SINGLE police team to look after Cannock and Rugeley is to be created as part of a Staffordshire Police re-organisation.

It will replace the two neighbourhood policing units, under a single chief inspector.

The change was revealed by Cannock commander Insp Pat Shannaghan at Cannock Community Forum.

Insp Shannaghan said that the Chief Constable was determined to keep the same numbers of neighbourhood police officers and police community support officers.

He said that from April Cannock and Rugeley units would merge, but no police stations would close.

Carols invitation to villagers

VILLAGERS at Cheslyn Hay are invited to carols led by the Salvation Army around the parish council Christmas tree, and the festive lights switch-on, in Chapel Square at 7pm tomorrow (Friday).

Tree sales begin

Santa with Bethany Ambrozewicz, aged three, ready for Christmas tree sales on the Chase

FATHER Christmas arrived on a sleigh pulled by real reindeer to open the 2010 Christmas tree sales at Cannock Forest.

He took up his place in a woodland grotto at Birches Valley Forest Centre on Sunday, and young visitors were given a cuddly toy and a tree to plant at home.

Three different species are on sale until December 19 in heights from 4ft to 14ft – Norway spruce lodgepole pine and Nordmann fir.

Charges on dead worker

A CANNOCK firm is to be prosecuted over the death of a worker who was crushed by a falling digger bucket.

Mark Palmer, aged 46, of Wolverhampton Road, Cannock, died in March 2008 while trying to repair an earthmover at Wells Dairy Farm, Bradley, near Stafford.

The Health and Safety Executive investigated and have now charged Hydraline, of Martindale Industrial Estate, Hawks Green.

The firm faces one charge under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and one of breaching the 1999 Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations.

Bosses from the firm are due to appear before Stafford Magistrates on December 16.

Jason Harwood, of JMW Solicitors, said Mr Palmer's family are pursuing a civil action against the firm.

"We have been notified by the Health and Safety Executive they have decided to prosecute in relation to this death.," he added.

Four held over cocaine swoop

A CANNOCK woman aged 24 was among four people arrested and bailed after crack cocaine was found at a property in Mill Street.

Two Cannock men, aged 34 and 37, and a 33-year-old Wolverhampton man were also bailed after the Staffordshire Police raid on Wednesday, November 24.

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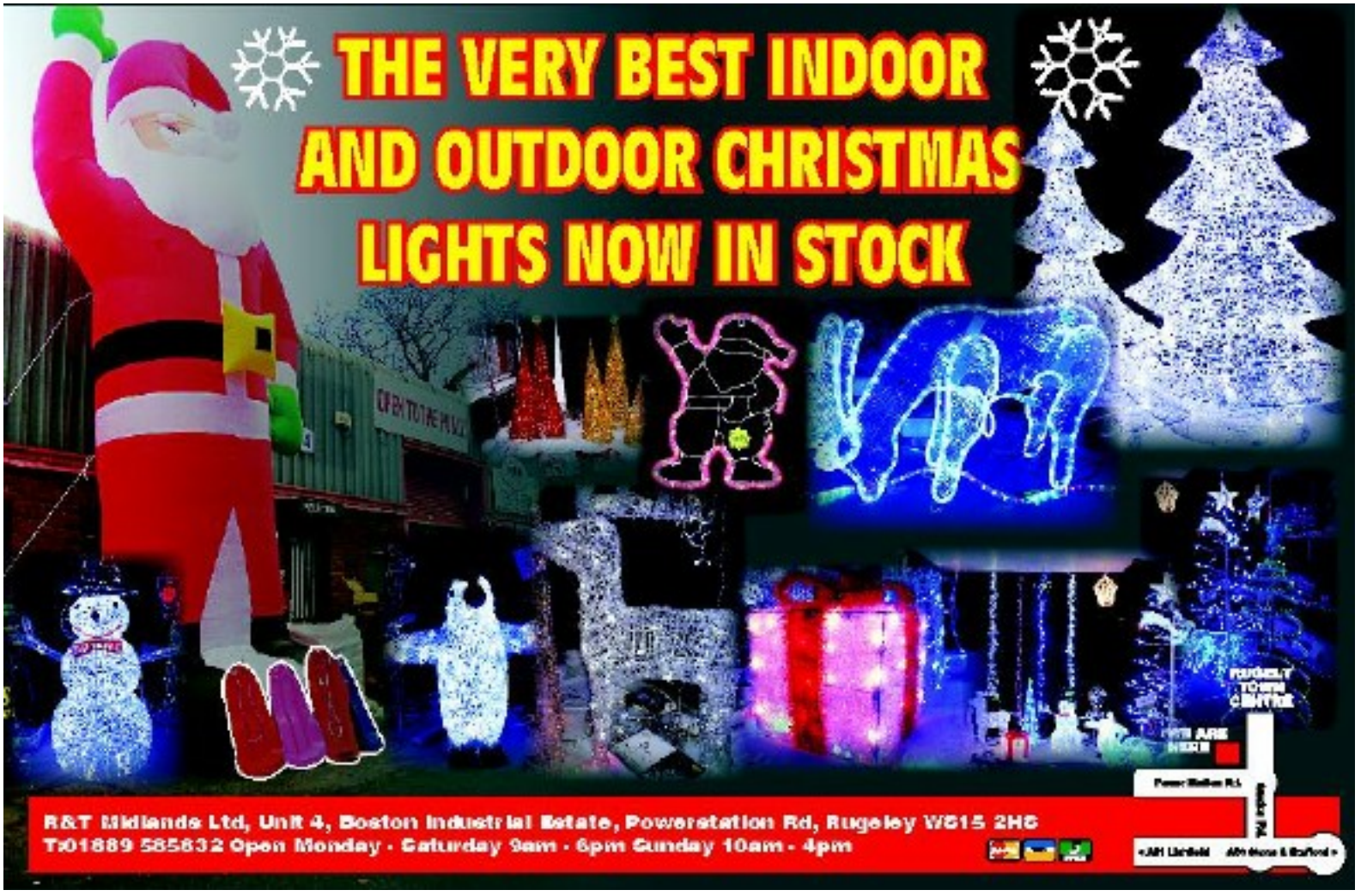
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Door to door schemes are labour intensive and involve the distribution of more than a hundred million donation bags every year, the vast majority of which are thrown away unused.

With Cash4Clothes you use any bags, and then just call our dedicated number to arrange a collection. Our collectors will weigh your bags and pay £0.50 per Kg for the items - this equates to £500 per tonne - or £5.00 for a 10Kg bag.

All clothing collected by Cash4Clothes is sold to importers and wholesalers in Eastern and Western Europe, Africa and Asia for reuse as clothing. Regardless of whether clothes are given to charities , clothing banks, council collections or Cash4Clothes, this is where the goods are sold. 80% of unwanted clothing goes for reuse as clothes and the other 20% enters the recycling industry for mattress stuffing, automotive applications, socks, blankets and the industrial wiper trade.

As a nation we throw away over 1 million tonnes of clothes every year and DEFRA consider textiles as the fastest growing item entering the waste stream.

If you want to donate part or all of your proceeds from a Cash4Clothes collection to a charity, there are options on the web which enable this to be done efficiently - www.justgiving.com can convert a £10 donation into a gift of £12 to a charity of your choice if you are a UK taxpayer.

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Santa to steam in

SANTA will arrive in Rugeley by steam train for a town centre late night shopping event.

The Rugeley Traders' Association event gets under way at 5pm tomorrow (Friday) as Father Christmas sets off from Horsefair to the Globe island, before making his way to Market Square.

Entertainment will come from a steel band and the Bill Bailey Jazz Band.

There will be fairground rides, a school colouring-in competition and an under-10s fancy dress competition for the best dressed elf (boys) and most delightful angel (girls).

Pelaton Cycles has donated a bike to be raffled off on the night.

Visitor Services Officer Nicola Peace gets ready for the Christmas Family Day at the Museum of Cannock Chase

Festive fun for the family at museum

FAMILIES across Cannock Chase can get into the Christmas spirit at a top tourist attraction this weekend.

The award-winning Museum of Cannock Chase is staging its annual Christmas Family Day on Sunday (December 5) from noon until 4pm.

Attractions at the Valley Road museum in Hednesford will include drop-in workshops for art and craft Christmas decorations, Pinocchio puppet shows, the coal mine Santa and his elf, a Christmas carol sing-along and festive balloon modelling.

There will also be the chance to meet the museum's 1940s housewife and find out more about Christmas in wartime.

There will be special Christmas storytellers, the chance to make a Christmas Wish and hang it on the museum tree as well as seasonal refreshments served in the coffee shop.

Visitors can pick up presents from the museum's gift shop and local organisations will have fundraising stalls.

There will be a £2 charge per car on the day, but admission is free for those on foot. Some activities will also have a small charge with all the money collected going to directly support and improve the museum.

Allotments raid causes village fury

RAIDERS left a trail of devastation after breaking into sheds at an allotments site near Rugeley.

The thieves made off with tools and wheelbarrows from the plots in Rugeley Road, Armitage. They even took metal frames from greenhouses.

Police say the allotments were ransacked by thieves looking for precious items and scrap metal.

The site was left covered in glass and plants were trampled on in the attack, which happened overnight between November 22 and 23.

Two Armitage district councillors have spoken out over the mindless crime – saying the worst part of it is the amount of time people spend making their allotments tidy.

Allotment holder George Lewis, aged 75, spent an enormous amount of time on his plot and had recently fixed two greenhouses together, both of which were taken.

Councillor Richard Cox said: ""A lot of people have put a lot of hard effort in to growing their own vegetables, for these people to come along and destroy them. I couldn't be any more angry."

Councillor Thomas Marshall described the crime as "unacceptable" and "extremely annoying".

Staffordshire Police spokesman Carol Evans said: "It is particularly disappointing that a community facility such as this has been targeted.

"The thieves would have been there for some time and the chances are they were seen by somebody."

She urged anyone who may have seen a van or a pick-up truck at the scene, or who had been offered any scrap metal or greenhouses for sale, to get in touch with police on 0300 1234455.

The vandalised allotments site in Armitage

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Homes at former school to get nod

PLANNERS looked set to pass a housing scheme at the site of a former Chadsmoor school this week.

Matco Holdings submitted plans to convert the former Chadsmoor Infants School into six two-bedroom houses earlier this year. The £300,000 project would also see an extension built to provide four flats.

Cannock Chase Council's planning committee was meeting yesterday (Wednesday) with the scheme earmarked for approval.

A report due to go before councillors said: "The existing school building is a local landmark and, although in a state of disrepair and neglect, is still a good example of period architecture.

"This application proposes the conversion of a landmark building to provide high quality accommodation in a sustainable location."

The building, on the corner of Cannock Road and Cecil Street, started life in 1877 as Chadsmoor Board School for Girls but has been empty for more than 20 years.

It closed when the school moved to new premises in Kingsway and has been framed by scaffolding for several years.

Matco bosses had previously said restoration of the building would be financially unviable and had planned to demolish it. However, the new plans would see restoration to parts of the historic building, including the wings.

Managing director Warren Matthews said the new flats and houses would create "top quality homes" which would be added to Matco's portfolio of rented stock.

Charity work to expand

A CHARITY set up by a Hednesford church to help provide clean water supplies in the developing world plans to involve more schools and businesses in the area.

About 150 people saw talent showcase at Kingsmead Technology College and about £1,400 was raised for Water 4 Life.

Senior leader of Hednesford Pentecostal Church John Tyrell they wanted to get more schools and businesses in the area involved in the appeal.

Call 01543 259995 or 07970 115561 or visit www.chase communityproject.org.uk

Auctioneer Dave Eglington prepares for the auction of fine and rare wine vintages

Vintage auction

RARE wines and spirits go under the hammer at an auction in Penkridge tomorrow (Friday).

Auctioneers and valuers Cuttlestones is hosting an auction of vintage claret, Sauternes, Burgundy, Port, Cognac and rare Joule's Commemorative Ales.

The event is being held from 7.30pm at the Cuttlestones auction house, in Pinfold Land with around 300 bottles split into among 200 lots.

The alcohol ranges from the 1920s to the late 1970s and come from three private cellars from the Staffordshire region.

Andrew Wilson, of Old School Wines, in Tittensor, who has helped arrange the sale on behalf of the private clients, said: "Perhaps the oldest and one of the most interesting bottles is a Joule's Victory Ale, brewed in 1946."

Christmas concert

A SENIOR citizens' Christmas concert is being held in Cannock on December 1 at the Avon Business and Leisure Centre, Avon Road.It will be from 1.15pm to 3.15pm and will feature Cannock Ex-Servicemen's Club Male Voice Choir and Break Out Theatre from Chase Day Services. Tickets are £3, Proceeds will go to the new Care and Share Group.

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Are you thinking about divorce?

The decision to divorce is a major hurdle to clear and has lasting consequences. If you are considering divorce then you need to be sure that it is the best course of action. Should you decide that divorce is what you want then I would recommend seeking legal advice, not only to guide you through the process, but to help you seek a fair and sensible settlement.

To get divorced you must have been married for more than a year and the process itself follows a number of set steps which need to be adhered to depending on your situation.

The administrative function of divorce can be relatively straightforward, problems can arise if documents are incorrectly completed or if there are disagreements between the parties involved. A solicitor can complete all the relevant paperwork and provide advice and guidance at each step of the process. Instructing a solicitor can remove the stress of dealing with the procedural aspects, at what is an emotional time, and if necessary a solicitor can also handle all communications with the other spouse and his/her solicitor.

In terms of timescales if the other spouse does not contest the divorce, then the process of divorce should take around six months. If the parties cannot agree or there are delays in the completion and submission of papers to the Courts, then this can extend the process. If there are proceedings around children or finances then these will run separately and can take longer than six months.

For a limited time during December 2010, Ansons is offering a free no obligation 30 minute consultation during which any aspect of divorce or family law can be discussed. You can book for your free consultation by contacting Susan Davies on 01543 267 190 / sdavies@ansonsllp.com and quoting 'FDSO'.

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Lucy coins it in for charity

A RUGELEY woman has been commended by her mother and friends for giving every spare penny she has to charity.

Lucy Pratt who has Down's Syndrome, heart problems and breathing difficulties, saves every penny she does not need from her disability allowance and gives it to charity at the end of the year.

Lucy's mother Maureen said her daughter had had a tough life coping with her disabilities, the death of her father last year, and losing her brother, Stephen, to cancer.

However, rather than feeling sorry for herself, Lucy seems to worry more about others in need. Maureen, who lives with Lucy in Millmoor Avenue, in Armitage, said: "She's never been any different, she's golden."

As well as giving cash to Help for Heroes, Lucy looks for bargain gifts on online television auctions to buy and donate to soldiers recovering in Midlands hospitals.

Maureen is keen to hear from people willing to help visit hospitals to donate the gifts. Call 01543 465303.

Lucy Pratt, who has been collecting all of her spare change for Help for Heroes

Alien Busta visits school for eco-day

PUPILS in Penkridge spent the day learning about recycling and being more energy efficient.

The children of Marshbrook First School took part in a 'Green' Day where they talked about and took part in activities focused on saving energy, reducing waste and looking after the planet.

Teacher Carole Williams and the school's eco co-ordinator Trina Kilkenny, got all of the 130 pupils at the Teddesley Road site involved.

Mrs Williams said: "The pupils were visited by Busta the alien who helped them to understand just how many things they can now recycle with their new Biffa bin."

The children took part in gardening tasks where they planted bulbs and wild flowers, and energy workshops aiming to reduce their carbon footprint.

Convenience store bid set to be backed

PLANS to transform a Rugeley pub into a convenience store have been recommended for approval.

Shrewsbury-based Suma Development wants to demolish the Pear Tree Inn and replace it with a mini-supermarket. There would also be two other shops, including a hot food takeaway.

The development is expected to create around 15 jobs and would include 26 free parking spaces at the site, at the corner of Queensway and Hednesford Road.

The developer has not yet announced if a firm has been lined up to run the convenience store, which would be open from 7am until 11pm.

The application was to be considered by Cannock Chase Council's planning committee yesterday (Wednesday).

More than 500 people have signed a petition objecting to plans to bulldoze the former pub. They say the development is not needed and would cause traffic and parking problems.

But a report due to go before the meeting says county council highways officers have no objection to the plans.

Meanwhile, long-awaited plans for a new housing estate in Rugeley are set to be approved – almost three years after they were first mooted.

Lichfield-based Walton Homes wants to build 37 flats and 24 houses on the former Hindley's Bakery site at Wharf Road, Brereton.

Sum is raised as a thank you to ward

THE family of a former Cannock Chase Hospital patient have raised more than £2,000 in his memory.

Rachel Malkin, aged 16, from Armitage raised the cash following the death of her uncle George Garland, of Rugeley,. He was treated on Fairoak ward after suffering a stroke and died earlier this year.

Rachel raised £2,035 by staging a disco at her village hall and organising a raffle on the ward.

She said: "This is our way of giving something back to the ward, to say thank you."

Rachel's mother Sandra said: "The staff were fantastic and nothing was too much for them to do – they were always there when he needed them."

Ward manager Clare Banks said: "We are very grateful to Rachel for raising such an impressive amount of money."

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Emily's winning card benefits hospice

A 10-YEAR-OLD Burntwood girl has had her Christmas card design chosen by St Giles hospice to go out to people across the country.

Fulfen Primary School pupil Emily Garnett was chosen ahead of hundreds of other youngsters across Staffordshire in the competition launched by the Whittington-based hospice. The youngster's comical winning design,depicting Santa stuck down the chimney, is now available from St Giles as part of the charity's Share a Card campaign.

People thinking of buying Christmas cards to exchange at work are being invited by the hospice to choose another way to show colleagues they care. Joining together with friends and colleagues, those taking part in the festive fundraiser can send a message of seasonal goodwill to all by writing a personal message in the A4-sized card, designed by Emily, to put on display for all to see.

Emily, who lists art among her favourite subjects, said: "I'm really pleased that my design was selected and hope lots of people buy the shared cards to help raise money for such a good cause."

Helen Relihan, head of fundraising for St Giles Hospice, said: "Everyone wants to share festive greetings with friends and colleagues at work, but sending an individual card to every single person doesn't always make good sense.

Fantastic

"Share a Card is a alternative way to send your Christmas wishes while supporting a fantastic local charity."

To take part in the Share a Card campaign, contact Sarah Shelton on 01543 432538 or email fundraising@st-giles-hospice.org.uk

Emily Garnett with St Giles community fundraiser Sarah Shelton and schools' co-ordinator Jo Walker

Emily's winning design

MP left 'disappointed' by big town switch-on

Organisers hit back in row over lights event

BUSINESS leaders have hit back after Cannock's MP labelled the town's Christmas lights switch-on a damp squib.

Conservative MP Aidan Burley said the festive switch-on, organised by public-private partnership Chase 3 and held on November 19, had left him "bitterly disappointed."

The lights were switched on by Carnival Queen Holly Herzberg and JLS tribute band Just Look Similar.

A planned fireworks display was cancelled, and Mr Burley says the 4,000 in attendance were not told why.,

Bosses have defended the organisation of the event and said they relied on the generosity of local people and business to put on the festivities.

They said the fireworks display was cancelled because of the weather and added it could be re-arranged for another date in the festive season – possibly on New Year's Eve.

Mr Burley said: "I must say, I came away bitterly disappointed. The JLS tribute band seemed to spend most of their time in an expensive-looking – and no doubt warm – stretch limo, while families, young children and some hardy pensioners braved the cold, hoping the best was yet to come.

"I think the people of Cannock deserve better. Those organising the display owe local people an explanation.

"At the very least, the council should publish an audit of the costs of the evening, so local tax payers know how their money was spent," he added.

In a statement, Chase 3 said the event had been organised by four volunteers with a budget of zero.

The statement reads: "The fireworks display was cancelled upon the advice from the company supplying them – the same company who are trusted as they perform the display every year.

"Many people complain about events in the town, but as soon as help is asked for they seem to disappear."

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Ladies treated to retail therapy

CHASE TERRACE LADIES CLUB

CHASE Terrace Ladies were treated to some retail therapy at o by two lovely ladies.

Kerry Davis was welcomed back and her cards and stationery were exemplary as usual. This time, she included some charity Christmas cards and the company she works for, Phoenix Trading, had managed to raise a million pounds for various children's charities and Cancer Research in 15 years.

Kerry's vast and attractive stock includes birthday cards, ribbons, gift bags, invitations, note pads, stationery sets, wrapping paper and more. Kerry can be contacted on 01543 670606.

The other visitor was Bernadette, who sells jewellery and high end branded women's fashions. She brought in some beautiful clothes (including up to a size 26) and a very large stock of jewellery, make-up and hair accessories. She is available for house parties and Fashion Shows and you can view some of the clothes on her web page on www.belledivino.com

Look for shop and then select sizes. Both Kerry and Bernadette gave the club commission payments on the goods sold.

Two members celebrate important birthdays and they provided loads of chocolates for everyone to share.

Guest shows off the art of napkin folding

HEDNESFORD AFTERNOON TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

THE Federation lunch at The Terrace in Brownhills was thoroughly enjoyed by members, and the entertainment provided by Guy Reynolds was excellent. Thanks from Hednesford Guild to all the members of the federation committee who helped to make it a superb afternoon.

The craft fair at the Aldridge Community Centre was successful with more than £50 worth of crafts being sold from the Guild's stall which will go to its charity fund. Many thanks to Doreen and Anne for manning the stall with help from Jean and Val.

An enjoyable afternoon at the Grand in Wolverhampton to see Jesus Christ Superstar was on the menu at the end of October with the usual standard of excellence we have come to expect from the West Bromwich Operatic Society.

Ruth Taylor, who used to work at Shugborough, came to demonstrate and talk about napkin folding. She demonstrated many ways in which to fold rectangular, triangular and square napkins into swans, lotus flowers, fans and many more, with bits of history about the flax plant and the spinning of the yarn which later became known as linen.

Diary dates: December 11 - Carol service at St Anne's Church, Church Street, Chasetown starting at 2pm; December 15 - A visit to Boundary Mills, Walsall and then onto lunch.

The December 13 meeting will be the Christmas party with entertainment by Chris and her husband Alan. Meetings are at St Peter's Church Hall, Hednesford, at 2pm on the second Monday of each month.To find out more about the Guild contact Yvonne on 01543 423337.

A productive morning by cookery club

PRESIDENT Del Johnson welcomed all to the November meeting and wished a Happy Birthday to those celebrating during the month.

Members were all given a slice of cake made by Del to celebrate the WI's 10th Anniversary. The Club reformed with just 20 members, now there are 49.

Secretary Helen Hallchurch read the minutes and forthcoming notices: The Hayes Green WI carol service is on December 13 at St John's Church at 7.30pm. Annual subscriptions will be £30 from 2011, the Federation AGM will be held in Liverpool. Hayes Green will send a representative for the Heathside Group on June 8; the County Quiz is on February 24 at St Leonard's in Stafford at 7.30pm.

Everyone stood for a two minute's silence at 11am in remembrance of the thousands of brave men that

CANNOCK WI

had given their lives in conflict. Due to Jan Shaw's health problem a professional couple has been booked to entertain the ladies at the Christmas lunch.

The Cookery Group had a productive morning making 60 mince pies for the Christmas party. They cooked a chicken and a fish risotto, a poppy seed wholemeal loaf and apple crumble and custard.

The morning's flower demonstrator June Jukes showed how to make the loveliest festive arrangements and she allowed all six arrangements to be used as raffle prizes. Janet Cotton gave the vote of thanks. Wynne Gardner won the Competition for A Decorated Candle. The next meeting is at 11am on December 9 in St Luke's Church Hall with the Christmas lunch at noon.

The competition is the "Best Wrapped Christmas Present".

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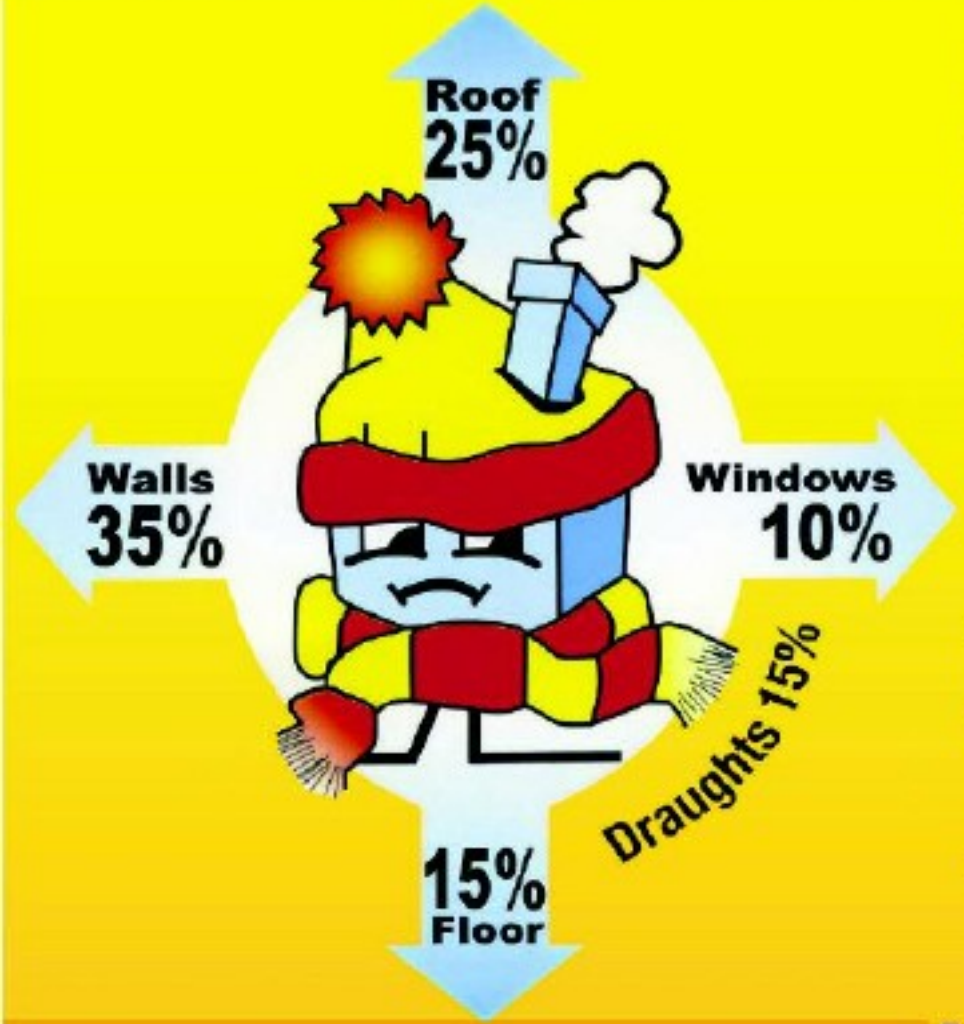

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Stephen Pyne with his latest awards from the Hairworld 2010 held in Paris

Hairdresser cuts it on world stage

A HAIRDRESSER proved he could cut it at an international level as he scooped two top five finishes at a competition held in Paris.

Stephen Pyne, aged 42, of Norton Canes, runs a hair salon on Wolverhampton Road, Cannock. He travelled to the Hairworld 2010 event in Paris as part of the Great British hairdressing team.

Some 800 hairdressers from more than 50 countries competed.

Mr Pyne was part of the team that came fourth for the best 'cut and blow dry' and was fifth in an individual creative styling contest.

He said: "It really is like the World Cup of hairdressing. My next aim is to take part in the European Championships in Dublin ."

He was assisted by niece Jodie Kenny, 26, who manages the Cannock salon.

Cafe marks anniversary

A SERVICE aimed at helping people living with Alzheimer's is celebrating its third birthday today (Thursday).

The Alzheimer's cafe brings those living with the disease and their carers together.

The Anniversary Cafe takes place at 12pm at St Luke's Church Hall, Cannock.

Awards as hoard kept in Midlands

THE ART Fund has won a national award for its efforts to keep the Staffordshire Hoard in the Midlands.

The charity, which campaigns and raises money for museums and galleries to show art, won Acquisition of the Year.

It did so following its £3.3m campaign to ensure the hoard, went on show in Birmingham and Stoke-on-Trent.

The Anglo-Saxon treasure was found in a farmer's field near Burntwood by metal detecting enthusiast Terry Herbert.

Art Fund director Stephen Deuchar accepted the Apollo Magazine Award on behalf of campaign partners, at Bonham's in London's New Bond Street. The event was hosted by the magazine's editor Oscar Humphries.

The huge sum was needed in order for both Birmingham Museums & Art Gallery and Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, in Stoke-on-Trent, to jointly acquire the hoard which was unearthed in 2009.

Beginning on January 13, this year, the two museums had until April to raise the sum.

Grant

Thanks to overwhelming public support, generous donations from trusts and foundations and a major £1.285m grant from the National Heritage Memorial Fund, the campaign target was reached three weeks ahead of schedule on March 24. Mr Deuchar said "I am thrilled to accept this wonderful accolade on behalf of the Staffordshire Hoard partnership, the Art Fund, all our staff, and all of our many members, supporters and donors, without whom we wouldn't have been able to achieve such a success with our campaign.

"It was rewarding to work so closely with the museums and councils in the West Midlands, to help preserve the extraordinary treasure for the future enjoyment of many."

The winners were chosen by the editorial team at Apollo and its editorial board.

The five award categories were: Personality of the Year, Book of the Year, Exhibition of the Year, Museum Opening of the Year, and Acquisition of the Year.

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Ex-player hits target as head of recruitment

Ex-player John Newall

A FORMER professional footballer has hit the back of the net after being signed to launch his own recruitment firm branch in Cannock.

John Newall, who began his career at Queens Park Rangers, recently joined Gap Personnel and will now oversee operations in Lichfield, Rugeley, Wolverhampton, Walsall and West Bromwich from his proposed offices in central Cannock.

The 30-year-old has spent the past eight years honing his skills at a rival agency, but having been recruited himself, he said he couldn't wait to get started at Gap.

After leaving QPR John went on to play for various Midlands teams including Halesowen Town, Stourport Swifts and Willenhall Town until a serious knee injury ended his playing days.

After working in deliveries and then sales, he responded to an advert for a recruitment trainee post and was successful.

"I love working in recruitment as it can be incredibly satisfying working in partnership with clients for the long haul, helping them to develop and grow," John said.

He will run a team of four from the Cannock base and said he would work closely with clients to form strong partnerships and help them to appreciate the benefits of working with Gap Personnel all year round.

John, who lives in Rugeley, added: "This can result in a much more stable, committed and effective workforce, rather than employers simply responding to the busy and quiet times.

"The market is really starting to pick up," he added.

Gap Personnel is the UK's ninth largest industrial labour provider and already has a network of 30 branches around the country including Coventry, Birmingham, Stoke-on-Trent and Telford.

Gap regional director Neil Barrett said: "We are delighted to have such a talented branch manager as John on board.

John is seeking office premises in central Cannock. In the meantime inquiries can be made by calling 07791 735789.

Youngsters at Happy Tots Nursery learn all about road safety

Happy to learn all about road safety

CHILDREN at a Cannock nursery have been learning about give ways and pedestrian crossings as part of National Road Safety week.

Staff from Happy Tots Nursery, at Orbital Plaza, Bridgtown, gave demonstrations to youngsters in the nursery garden, teaching them how to stay safe near roads.

They discovered the importance of wearing bright colours when outside in the dark, as well as how to not cross between parked cars and always stop, look and listen.

Children took it in turns 'driving' their toy cars or pretending to be pedestrians in the garden. Manager Judy Kelly, said: "It's never too early to start teaching them good road safety in a fun but informative way."

For more information on Happy Tots visit www.happy-tots.com or call 01543 509089.

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Amended homes plan looks set for approval

PLANS for a new housing estate in in Rugeley were set to be rubber-stamped yestreday (Wednesday) – but there will be no affordable homes on the site, developers say.

Lichfield-based Walton Homes claims it has not been able to attract any interest from social landlords in the scheme for 37 flats and 24 houses on Wharf Road, Brereton.

It has instead offered to pay £150,000 towards affordable housing schemes across the Cannock Chase district in a proposal submitted as part of the bid.

The site is currently an empty and fenced-off field on the former Hindley's Bakery site, just 50 yards from the Brereton access to Rugeley Town train station.

An application was lodged in April and the plans were due to be considered by Cannock Chase Council's planning committee on Wednesday afternoon.

Officers have recommended approval is recommended by .

The developers' interest in the site dates back to December 2005.

Cashflow

At that time an application was rejected by councillors – ironically on the grounds that it did not include enough affordable housing.

An initial application by Walton for 43 flats and 18 houses was formally approved in September 2007, only to be put on hold as the recession hit.

The firm said the new proposals would help boost the firm's cashflow as it struggles to emerge from the economic downturn.

A report that was due to go before councillors at thes meeting also recommended a condition obliging developers to start work within six months.

Hindley's Bakery was traditionally a major player in Rugeley's economy and a popular haunt of youngsters walking home from Hagley Park High School, on Burnthill Lane. But the factory was cleared from the site more than 20 years and ago.

Gerald Molineux, parish and district councillor for Brereton, said: "The parish council had no objections to this proposal and in fact were broadly in favour of the development."

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Lanterns to light up parade

A LANTERN parade through Norton Canes is set to be one of the highlights when the village's Christmas lights are switched on Tuesday (7).

Norton Canes Community Partnership organised workshops where youngsters made the lanterns.

Working alongside the parish council and Cannock Chase District Council, it managed to secure £1,000 match funding from Norton Canes Community & Learning Partnership to deliver the project.

The events starts at 5pm when youngsters can book places for the parade, which will finish at Norton Canes library for hot drinks and mince pies. For more information call 01543 459820.

Children attending the parade must be accompanied by an adult.

Chairman of Norton Canes Parish Council, Neil Booth, community development officer from Norton Canes Community Partnership, Tracey Gould and Bethany Brindle, aged 10)

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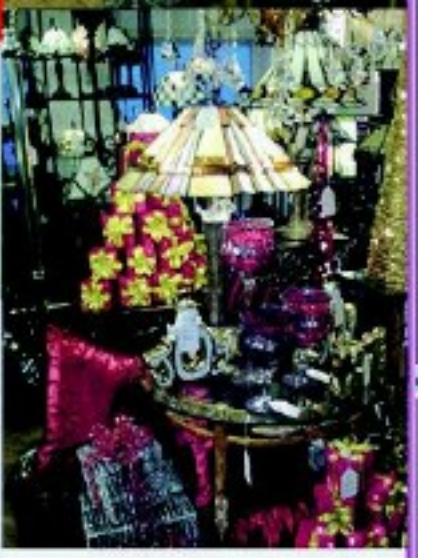

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Help! I'm a stressed parent get me out of here

PARENTS go out just 15 times over the first five years of their child's life, a report has revealed.

That means that on average in one year couples get just three nights a year of quality time together away from the children and the hustle and bustle of everyday life.

Seven in 10 parents wish they could have more nights out with their partner, and 57 per cent reckon their relationship has lacked romance since the arrival of their firstborn.

The biggest reasons for staying in night after night include not having enough money to go out (42 per cent) and feeling guilty asking people to babysit (41 per cent).

ReadyBed conducted the poll of 3,000 parents in conjunction with the launch of www.saturdaysleepoverclub.co.uk

Spokeswoman Lucy Wynn Jones, said: "The harsh reality is that although parents would relish more quality time together, in most cases the children come first.

Important

"People feel bad for putting their own relationship as a couple above their children – as well as beating themselves up about getting in the babysitters, they also feel bad for wanting time away from the children.

"But it is enormously important to continue a degree of normality and romance after becoming parents."

A quarter of parents reckon a night out is no fun when you don't get a decent lie in the following morning – in fact, 66 per cent would definitely wine and dine their partners more often if babysitters were available for the following day as well.

But a third of sensible folk admit a hangover with the kids is unbearable, and 15 per cent reckon they spend most of their evenings catching up on the housework rather than enjoying anyone's company.

Just under half of those polled would be more tempted to have nights out if friends or other people actually offered to babysit.

And 82 per cent would be more likely to enjoy an evening out more if their kids stayed overnight with a trusted friend or family member.

Difficult

Two thirds of Brits claim to miss the time they once had with their partner before they had children and 45 per cent feel they don't communicate as much as they used to.

And when couples do enjoy a rare night out, 42 per cent are always surprised at how well they get on with their partner. But 34 per cent admit that on at least one occasion the night had been ruined because they'd been called back by the babysitter, who couldn't cope with the children.

When questioned about what they miss most about life before the children, just over half said weekend lie-ins.

Worry

Twenty five per cent of people say they miss the lively nights out they used to enjoy with their partner, while the same percentage miss undisturbed nights in.

The ReadyBed spokeswoman continues: "Those people who find it difficult or expensive getting babysitters should club together with friends, to share out the babysitting duties on a monthly basis.

"That way the children get to enjoy quality time with their friends as they have sleepovers together on a regular basis and the adults get some much-needed time away from parenting responsibilities, enabling them to regain some of the life they had before the kids came along."

The study shows 58 per cent of parents rarely even have special nights in together – of these, 28 per cent say their children don't go to bed early enough, and when they do, 21 per cent will get up several times and disturb them.

Without the worry of babysitters, a romantic meal was by far the most desired activity for 54 per cent of folk.

One in 10 people would go to the cinema with their partner if they had the chance, 11 per cent would appreciate a trip down the pub and six per cent would go clubbing.

TOP 10 REASONS THAT PARENTS DON'T GO OUT

1. Lack of money
2. Guilt at asking people to babysit
3. Too tired
4. A hangover with the children isn't fun
5. There isn't a lie in to look forward to the following morning
6. There is no one to babysit
7. There is no one who can be trusted with the children
8. Most evenings are spent catching up with housework
9. Don't want to do anything without the children
10. Most evenings are spent catching up with work

● Information supplied by ReadyBed

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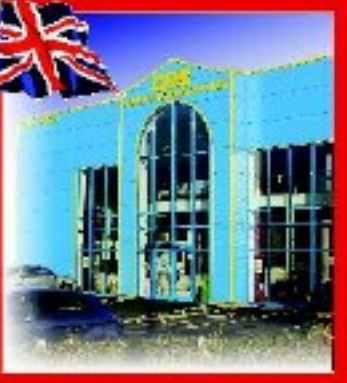

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thebestofcannock

thechronicle

Simple Minds to play Chase forest concert

ONE of the biggest rock bands of the 1980s is coming to Cannock Chase next summer in the latest in a series of concerts at the beauty spot.

Simple Minds is the first act to announce dates for live shows put on by the Forestry Commission where bands perform at spectacular woodland locations around the country.

The show on June 25 forms part of the band's Greatest Hits Forest Tour and tickets go on sale tomorrow (Friday).

Hits such as Alive and Kicking, Sanctify Yourself, Don't You (Forget About Me), Promised You A Miracle, Waterfront and Belfast Child established Simple Minds with a global audience and the band had a run of number one albums including Sparkle In the Rain, Once Upon A Time and Street Fighting Years. The Glaswegian rockers' frontman Jim Kerr, once married to Patsy Kensit, said: "We've never done the forest gigs before so we are really looking forward to performing in such beautiful places."

Simple Minds, led by Jim Kerr

At all of the shows, the band will be supported by Starsailor front man James Walsh.

Tickets for the show cost £35, subject to booking fee, and go on sale at 9am on 03000 680400 or at www.forestry.gov.u k/music

Previous acts to have appeared at the Cannock Chase concerts have included Simply Red, Keane, Jools Holland, Status Quo, Paul Weller and the Sugababes.

Santa Claus at school fair

CHILDREN can meet Santa in his grotto at a Cannock school's festive fair tomorrow (Friday).

The fair, at Jerome Primary, in Hussey Road, Norton Canes, takes place from 6-9pm.

Attractions will include a tombola and stalls and admission is free.

Disney theme boosts funds

A DISNEY fun day at a Rugeley store raised more than £500 for the Anthony Nolan Trust.

The charity, which matches donors to leukaemia patients needing life-saving bone marrow transplants, has been chosen as Wilkinson's national cause.

The Market Street store has organised a series of events though the year. Assistant manager Teresa Allport said that in six months nationally £668,000 had been raised. Wilkinson's aim to raise £1m across its 340 branches.

"We had great fun," said Teresa. "Our staff always enjoy dressing up for a good cause."

Staff invited customers to make donations and ran a raffle and Christmas lucky dip. There was also badge making for youngsters.

Wilkinsons staff dress as their favourite Disney characters to raise cash for the Anthony Nolan Trust

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Duty calls for gamers

CALL OF DUTY BLACK OPS (18, ACTIVISION)

CALL of Duty is the top first person shooter franchise and Black Ops will be one of, if not the, biggest games of 2010.

It takes in a slew of different scenarios as you play a soldier under interrogation who, between foul-mouthed outbursts and electric shocks, blacks out and then relives past missions. As you're a Cold War veteran of special operations, this ranges from the Bay of Pigs attempted US invasion of Cuba in the early 1960s to the jungle killing fields of Vietnam and into Russia itself.

There is no let up in the gun-blazing action but developers Treyarch have mixed things up with lots of vehicle-based warfare which, for example, puts you in the cockpit of a helicopter and a fighter jet.

It looks great, very cinematic, and gamers have the choice of an epic single player mode, online multiplayer and, especially for gore-loving gonzos, a zombie version. Also look out for a few hidden retro games within the main game.

FALLOUT NEW VEGAS (18, BETHESDA)

Back to the wasteland of the post-apocalyptic American west for the sequel to the classic Fallout 3. This time you're heading to the neon-lit deadly playground of Vegas to get revenge on the man who left you for dead, and will encounter an exotic cast of characters, robots and mutants along the way.

This is a role playing game more than a shooter which offers a derelict landscape to explore and quests to complete. The decayed, damaged and dangerous world is brilliantly realised. This latest Fallout is an absorbing game, enhanced by the atmospheric music and a kitsch sense of humour.

NEED FOR SPEED HOT PURSUIT (PG, EA)

Petrol-head thrills guaranteed in this high-speed track game in which cops and racers, both equipped with the hottest high performance cars, engage in intense chases. The coastal and desert highways of Seacrest County seem to attract some very rich boy racers, judging by their pricey rides.

In the cop mode you can deploy stingers and helicopter support in your bid to stop the racers. Though, of course, the preferred approach will be to shunt them off the road with spectacular metal crunching results.

The in-game guide encourages you to take to the virtual road online and the game includes a code for an online pass to unlock extra features including some rather lovely Italian sports cars.

BLOOD STONE 007 (16, ACTIVISION)

A new Bond adventure that's isn't a movie tie-in. But it's got familiar faces, including Daniel Craig and Judi Dench, and all the exotic settings, fisticuffs, gunplay and exciting car chases that you would expect from 007.

It's a winter war-nderland as the Cold War hots up in Call of Duty Black Ops

The story starts at a summit of world leaders in Athens where Bond parachutes in to stop a terrorist plot, and in short order you've had a super-yacht shootout, a motorboat chase and a car chase, so there's no faulting it on the action front.

Graphics are pretty good and the online multiplayer version emphasises the first person shooter aspect. It's a long way from being the definitive Bond game and the bad guys would help the game challenge by being less stupid. However, the action-packed story means this 007 is licensed to thrill.

All these games are available for Xbox 360, PS3 and PC while some are also available for other formats. All were reviewed on Xbox 360

VENETICA (16, DTP)

A role playing game from Germany (don't worry, it's in English) which is clearly inspired by the Fables and Assassin's Creeds. A vengeful beauty takes on an evil sorcerer and his minions in medieval Venice. Sounds like it could be fun but it's dull, undemanding and the animations look more suited to the Wii or PS2.

Leon Burakowski

No doubt eyebrows were raised at the town hall when the Seacrest Police Department opted for the Bugatti Veyron as their squad car

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the pulse

Jive Talkin' with Bee Gees tribute – turn to page 39

Neil Morrissey and Arabella Weir line up for new season

TALENT SHOW'S SHAUN HOME FOR GARRICK GIG

STAFFORD-born actor Neil Morrissey is among the big names appearing in the Lichfield Garrick's new season. The spring season also includes Lichfield's own Tony Christie and rock star Rick Wakeman.

Autumnwatch presenter Chris Packham, singer Barbara Dickson, politican Diane Abbott, Martin Bell, Barry Cryer, Arabella Weir and Derek Acorah are other big names lined up for the shows between January and May. Tickets have already gome on sale.

Adrian Jackson, artistic director at the Castle Dyke venue, said: "We have a great selection of shows to appeal to all tastes and ages."

An Evening with Neil Morrissey – Celebrities Stripped Bare is lined up for March 30. The Men Behaving Badly star will share stories about his career on stage and screen. The show is not suitable for the under-16s.

Fans of the hit show Glee will also be in for a treat when GMania comes to the Lichfield Garrick on Friday January 28.

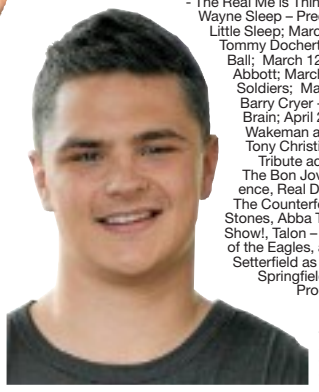
It features 10 of the biggest stars from The X Factor, Britain's Got Talent, Pop Idol, Pop Stars – The Rivals, Grease Is The Word and Last Choir Standing, including local lad Shaun Smith.

Precious

Other dates are: February 12 and 13, Barbara Dickson; February 18, Chris Packham – A Wild Life Exposed; March 1, Martin Bell; March 3, Arabella Weir - The Real Me is Thin; March 4, Wayne Sleep – Precious Little Sleep; March 10, Tommy Docherty on the Ball; March 12, Diane Abbott; March 20, The Soldiers; March 24, Barry Cryer - Butterfly Brain; April 2, Rick Wakeman and May 5, Tony Christie.

Tribute acts include The Bon Jovi Experience, Real Diamond, The Counterfeit Stones, Abba The Show!, Talon – The Best of the Eagles, and Katy Setterfield as Dusty Springfield.

Programme are available from the box office or visit www.lichfieldgarrick.com



Actor Neil Morrissey and Lichfield's Shaun Smith are on the Garrick programme

Arabella Weir will be at the Garrick on March 3

Rejoice – it's a boy!

PANTO season gets in full swing in December with a Christian-themed production in Rugeley.

It's a Boy! takes place at the Victory Christian Centre on Anson Street tomorrow (Friday 3) and Saturday from 7-9pm.

Emmanuel Church in Burntwood is helping to stage the pantomime, for which tickets cost £5 each or £12.50 for a family, with refreshments included.

Call the Victory Christian centre on 01889 586246 for details.

Fountain of Youth

LICHFIELD rockers Fountain of Youth are sure to attract a good crowd when they play the Longford Social Club in Cannock this month.

Support comes from The Bad Rats and profits from the night, Saturday, December 18, go to Help for Heroes.

Tickets are £5 on the door from 7.30pm and the gig is for over-18s only.

The club is based on Wellington Drive, Cannock.

YOUR EIGHT-PAGE ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE AND WEEK'S TV VIEWING

Josh, older and wiser – page 44

The Trentham Estate

Light up your Winter

Trentham Shopping Village and Garden Centre are now bursting with festive ambiance and bursting with glittering gifts galore to delight your loved ones.

Be tempted by over 50 shops offering fresh, local artisan food, specialist teas, oils and liqueurs. You'll find gifts for crafters, campers, outdoor enthusiasts and golfers. Art and ceramics, hampers, soft furnishings and aromatics for bath and body, stylish fashions and accessories to suit every occasion – there's even outfits for dogs!

Santa's Wonderland including a Christmas Market is now open and Santa & Mrs Claus are in their grotto at the weekends where children can experience the magic of meeting Santa. Meet Bjorn the animatronic polar bear in the Shopping Village this weekend.

Whether you just need to refuel whilst you're shopping or are looking for a sumptuous Christmas feast, choose from our array of fabulous eateries.

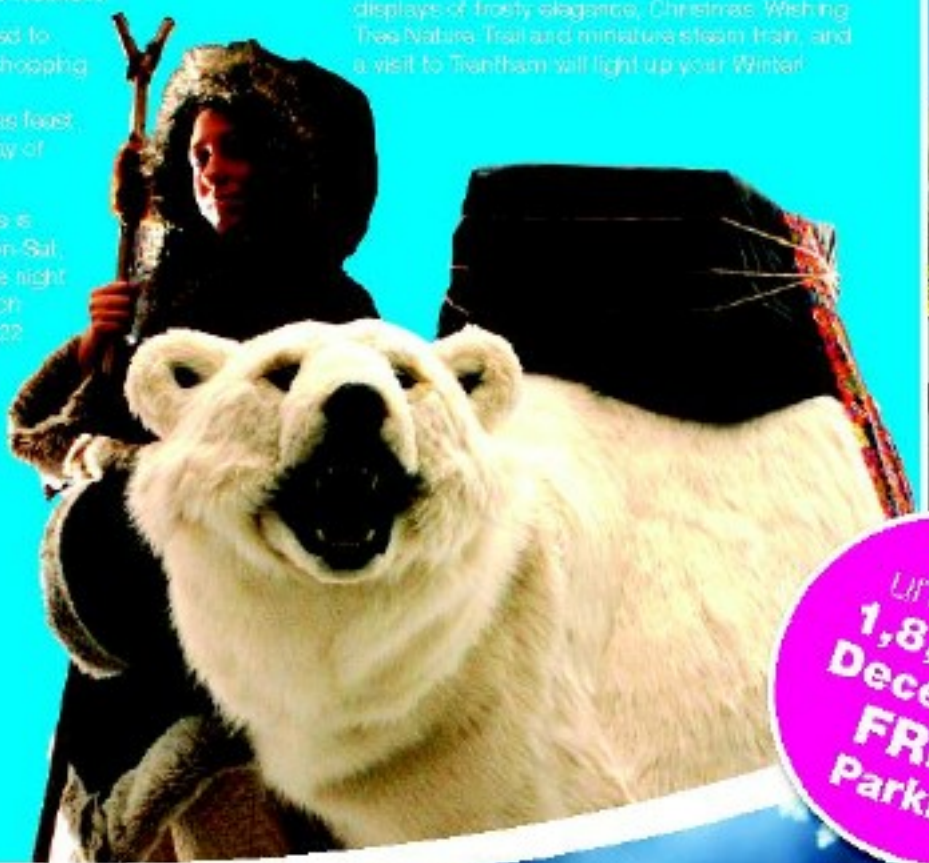
The Shopping Village is open 10am-6pm Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm Sun. Late night shopping until 8pm on Wednesdays 1, 8, 15, 22 December.

Go for an exhilarating whirl around Trentham's real Ice Rink which is back in its beautiful lakeside setting and is open on Fridays (4pm-8pm), Saturdays (11am-8pm) and Sundays (11am-5pm) throughout November. Enjoy Ice Disco Wednesdays on 8, 15, 22 and 29 December with sessions at 5, 6, 7 & 8pm.

Please call us to reserve tickets (Adult £8.25, Child age 5-15 £6.50, Concession £7.75, Family £28, Spectator £3). Discounts available for pre-booked groups of 20+ or enjoy exclusive hire of the ice rink from £150 per session.

Check out our fun-packed events programme and latest information at **www.trentham.co.uk**

Add to this Trentham Gardens with its sparkling displays of frosty elegance, Christmas Wishing Tree, Nature Trail and miniature steam train, and a visit to Trentham will light up your Winter!



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www.trentham.co.uk

Bring this advert with you to receive 10% discount on day admission to Trentham Gardens this winter

Code: X11 210 Expires: 01.Q11

Saturday Night Fever with Bee Gees tribute

NIGHT FEVER will be in the air when a Bee Gees tribute show comes to the Lichfield Garrick.

Jive Talkin' brings together three renowned vocalists, who have all appeared on stage with the Bee Gees themselves, for a tribute to the disco legends' classic hits.

Brothers Darren and Gary Simmons appear as Barry and Robin Gibb, while Jarrod Loughlin is Maurice Gibb, with the trio's collective career highs including shows at London's West End and numerous worldwide TV appearances.

Jive Talkin' attempts to recreate to perfection the extensive Gibb Brother's repertoire.

They are accompanied by a live string section to compliment heavily orchestrated 60s hits, such as Massachusetts and Words, as well as string disco classics Stayin' Alive and Night Fever.

As the years roll on the show introduces special guest performers, all carefully selected for their unique vocal abilities, to perform the many hits the Bee Gees wrote for other artistes such as Barbra Streisand, Celine Dion and Diana Ross.

The show also features an acoustic medley of some of the Bee Gees earlier hits. Lichfield Garrick spokesman Rhiannon Purkis said: "As the two hour show comes to a close, audiences leaving theatres will feel that they have witnessed a truly entertaining, well-produced show that had them both reaching for their handkerchiefs and dancing in the aisles!"

Tickets for Jive Talkin' – The Bee Gees Concert, which takes place on Saturday December 11, are £18.

To book call the box office on 01543 412121 or log on to www.lichfieldgarrick.com

Night Fever – Bee Gees tribute on at the Garrick on December 11

A double dose of city band

THE City of Lichfield Concert Band is presenting a Christmas double bill, with a traditional show and a concert for families.

"Magical Christmas Night", starts at 7.30pm on Saturday, December 11 at Lichfield Guildhall. Much of the programme will be repeated on Sunday at 2.30pm but in a style especially geared for families. It will feature an opportunity for children to join in with carols. Players are encouraged to bring their own wind instrument and younger children will be provided with shakers and percussion instruments.

For Sunday, one ticket for anyone aged 16 and under will be available free with an accompanying full price or concession adult ticket.

Tickets are £7.50 or £6.50 from Redshaws Bookshop in Bird Street. Any remaining tickets will be offered at the door.

Visit www.lichfieldconcertband.co.uk

Rose panto

RUGELEY Town Council's annual pantomime, Jack and the Beanstalk, will be held at the Rose Theatre from December 14 to 18.

Matinee performances take place on Tuesday and Wednesday (14/15) at 2pm, with a Saturday show (18) at 2.30pm.

There will be an evening performance at 7pm on Friday 17.

Tickets are available from the theatre, in Taylor's Lane, or by calling 01889 584036.

Band's music for Christmas

YULETIDE classics are on the menu at St Stephen's Church concert in Cannock.

The Staffordshire Band is joining forcing with the St Stephen's Singers for a performance of Music for Christmas.

It takes place from 7.30pm on Friday December 17 at the Bideford Way church. Tickets are £5 and include refreshments.

To book, call Alan Timmins on 01543 577348.

Complete Fab Four treatment

FOLLOWING on from a hugely successful appearance earlier in the year, the Complete Beatles return to Cannock this month.

One of the busiest and most popular Beatles tribute acts on the circuit, the Complete Beatles perform totally live and attempt to capture the atmosphere and excitement from the 1960s.

As well as recreating dozens of legendary hits, the band add Beatles humour, harmonies, mop top hairstyles, authentic period costumes and vintage instruments for a complete show.

They're due to perform at the Prince of Wales Centre on Tuesday December 14, starting at 8pm.

A spokesman for the centre said: "These amazingly talented musicians will transport you back to the swinging 60s with their authentic vocals and harmonies, as they have done on the BBC, Channel 4 and numerous radio stations here in the UK and abroad."

Tickets for the Complete Beatles are £14.

Call the Church Street centre's box office on 01543 578762.

Pied Piper is festive show

A CANNOCK society is bringing its popular annual Christmas show back to the Prince of Wales Centre.

Cannock Wood and Gentleshaw Musical Society (CWAGMS) present The Pied Piper of Hamelin from Thursday 9 to Saturday 11 December.

The timeless story follows the Pied Piper, who rids the town of Hamelin of a plague of rats.

Cannock Wood and Gentleshaw's version is labelled as great family entertainment with wonderful music, stunning costumes and sets and lots of fun and laughter.

A Prince of Wales Centre spokesman said: "CWAGMS tickets always go fast so don't miss your chance to enjoy this delightful tale for all the family."

CWAGMS formed in 1977 and membership has since grown from 35 to 100.

The group performs two complete stage musicals each year; one in May and one in December and also has an annual travelling variety musical show which begins in September and is performed throughout the year.

Tickets for The Pied Piper of Hamelin can be booked by calling the box office on 01543 578762.

Pantomime with a twist

A CURIOUS twist on the pantomime theme is promised in Cannock and Rugeley next week.

Bethlehem's Got Talent, a nativity panto from the WATT Theatre Company, offers comedy, music and stunning UV special effects.

Audiences are invited to enter a whole new world with flying carpets, a friendly dwarf and a three-legged man.

Shows are being held at Rugeley Rose Theatre next Wednesday (December 8) and Thursday and at Chadsmoor Methodist Church on Friday and Saturday.

The weekday performances start at 7.30pm, with Saturday's Chadsmoor show at 2pm.

For tickets, which are £7 for adults and £6 for concessions, call 01889 586241 or 07966 266812.

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Tickets £12
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Saturday 18th December
Tickets £17.50 Concessions £16.50
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Beyond The Barricade at Christmas
Thursday 16th December • 7.30pm
Tickets £17
Prince of Wales Centre, Cannock Tel: 01543 578762
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the pulse

Saturday TV

Choice

MERLIN

BBC1, 7.40pm

Our magical hero has regularly placed his life on the line to protect Camelot and its future king, Prince Arthur, but in true cocoon fine style, the young spell-caster faces his biggest challenge to date in this episode as the newly crowned Queen Morgana unleashes an immortal army on the innocent citizens. Arthur plans a daring attack to regain control of the kingdom, but will not the great sword Excalibur, leave certain death at the hands of the supernatural foe. Can the young wizard reclaim the powerful weapon from the mystical Lake of Avalon in time? We're about to find out.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 9.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 10.00 Mr Gilbert Kitchen. (R) 10.30 BBC News; Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Football Focus. 11.05 Freddie Flintoff: Ashes Warrior. (R) 12.00 Live Snooker: UK Championship. Hazel Irvine introduces the opening afternoon and matches. 1.00 Final Score. 1.05 BBC News; Regional News; Weather. 1.20 Walk on the Wild Side. (R)

1.45 **The Impressions Show with Culshaw and Stephenson.** Comedy sketch show. (R)

2.30 **Celebrity Coach Trip/Day.** The show's rolling contestants compete in the movie-themed quarterfinal.

3.00 **Hustle.** Premiere of new Morgana and Morgause's financial army unveils his soon-to-be Camelot. Last in the series.

4.00 **The Times of Lottery Saturday Night Show.** Presented by John Fortune.

4.30 **Countdown.** Rush rounds. Zoo sells a doctor with the highest mortality rate.

5.00 **The Adventures of Billie Shaw.** Animation. Agreeing an Ben Miller reunite for more absurd shenanigans, finding the country's most fascinating home secretary and from the British really own the sun.

5.30 **BBC News; Weather; National Lottery Update.**

5.50 **Match of the Day.** Including highlights of Chelsea v Everton.

6.50 **The Football League Show.** Weekend wrap.

7.20 BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 10.00 BBC Switch. The Cat. 10.20 BBC Switch. Tracy Beaker. Teenage Tribulations. 10.45 BBC Switch. Operation. 11.00 BBC Switch. The Big Show. 12.00 BBC Switch. The Saboteurs. (R) 12.40 BBC Switch. Revealed. 1.05 Film: Land of the Pharaohs. (1955) Drama, starring Jack Hawkins. 3.00 Flog It! (R) 4.00 Live Snooker: UK Championship. 4.30 At Home with the Georgians. (R)

5.00 **Holiday Destination's Lochinvar.** John Stonehouse tells the story of Scotland's nature. (R)

5.30 **Devil's Advocate.** The debaters play the best bad Samurai. (R)

6.00 **Auction Divas.** Exploring the role of fashion in the attraction of the American many, from the Pilgrim Father's Christian influence to the Baby Boomer generation who rejected Prince Charles. Last in the series.

6.30 **How I Got a Bit Done Because of Sex.** Lee Mack hosts an extended version of the comedy current affairs quiz, with Ben Livingstone and Sarah Millican joining regular team captains Ian Hislop and Paul Merton.

7.00 **QI XL.** Will Jamsey Clarkson, Brad Mitchell and Fiona Fields. (R)

8.00 **The Stephen K. Amos Show.** The comedian chairs a mixture of recent film offers. (R)

9.00 **Film: Phoenix Rises.** (2008) Drama, with Will Lee.

10.45 Snooker: UK Championship. 11.45 Snooker: UK Championship Extra. 12.00 Close.

ITV1

6.00 GTV: The Bluffy Club. 7.30 Yoomalli. 8.00 The Cool Stuff Collective. 8.05 Planet Sketch. (R) 8.30 The Mystic Pumpkin Animals. (R) 9.00 The Crocodile Hunter Diaries. (R) 10.00 News; Weather. 10.05 Pregnant Pregnant. 11.00 The Morning Sickness Show. 11.30 All New You've Been Framed! (R) 12.00 All New You've Been Framed! (R) 12.30 Film: The Great Outdoors. (1988) 2.00 Film: Mac Dustbins. (1999) 3.30 Regional Programmes. 3.35 ITV News; Weather. 3.40 All New British Doctor: The Hardest Things.

4.00 **All New You've Been Framed!** Presenting a never-ending flurry of in jokes.

4.30 **Harry Hill's Go Best of TV Burp.** Classic clips from previous series.

5.00 **The X Factor.** The remaining acts perform two songs each in the semi-final, battling for places in next week's final. Dermot O'Leary presents. The results can be seen tomorrow at 7.30pm.

6.45 **Fern Cotton's Text In Out of Hand.** Various viewers choose their favourite animals, actors and other results of late-night text-based antics in the jungle and drinking experiments. Pat and Dec present. Last in the series.

7.45 **Take It Outside! Brits Behind the scenes as the singers perform in Britain and Ireland.**

8.45 **ITV Unreal Weather.**

9.00 **Simply Red: For the Love Here.** (R)

10.45 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 11.00 Gutters. (R) 11.30 Stone and Daughters. 12.30 ITV Nightscreen. 1.00 ITV News.

Channel 4

6.00 Sint Nick. (R) 6.30 The Treasure People. (R) 7.00 10 Gubbs Gubbs. (R) 7.30 World Sport. 7.55 Sailing. 8.00 The Morning Line. 8.30 Tic Dic Toe Hill. 9.00 Tic Lily Dilly. (R) 10.00 Tic Keke Pop. 10.30 Tic Friends. (R) 11.00 Tic The Gubbs Video Rewards Top 20. 11.30 Tic Sparks. (R) 12.00 Channel 4 Racing. 1.00 Jamie's Ultimate Music. (R) 1.30 Come Dine with Me. (R)

2.30 **Come Dine with Me.** The first dinner party in Sunderland. (R)

3.00 **The Political Show.** Labour MP Bridget Phillipson's view of Government spending cuts.

3.30 **Channel 4 News.**

3.50 **Hollyoaks.** Molly former Bishop of Rochester Michael Knill. (R)

4.30 **Virgil Bradyan.** Kevin McCloud visits the Dordogne in France. (R)

5.00 **Location, Location, Location.** The story of Germany's supermodel. Last in the series.

5.30 **FILE Shrubby Billionaire.** (2005) A poor limit-to-regard mining man on a nation's quite clever idea to pay him and boss cousins of dazzling Danny Boyle. Genre-mining drama, starring Dev Patel and Freida Pinto.

6.30 **FILE Disturbing Tales, Hidden Dramas.** (2008) Mental and drama, starring Cheryl Cole.

7.00 Five Enemy at the Gates. (2001) 9.40 The DC. (R) 10.40 Countdown. (R)

Channel Five

8.00 Milkshake! 10.00 The Great Ethiopian Run 2010. 11.00 UEFA Europa League Highlights. 12.00 Your Sport. 12.30 The Gadget Show. (R) 1.30 Film: Cats & Dogs. (2001) 3.30 Film: The Cheetah Girls. (2003) 5.00 Five News. 5.05 Film: Toy Age. (2002) Animated adventure, with the voice of John Leguizamo.

6.40 **The Chatelets.** Lisbon and the team investigate when Anne is kidnapped, only to discover most people the consultant has dealt with have a motive to harm him. (R)

7.30 **RCHL.** A Manchester murdered, just before being the prime suspect. Is Jack found dead and Tom and Abby discover a secret relating to Sid's life on an email. (R)

8.20 **CSI: Hawaii.** A police pilot looked in Miami finds that the crime of a double murder, Mamrella, Horace and Nicole's relationship evolves. Guest starring James Pierce. (R)

9.10 **CSI: Crime Scene Investigation.** A woman is suspected of killing her husband and children, who have become caught up in a love triangle between two rock bodies have never been found. The case is complicated by her friendship with Jim.

10.00 **CSI: NY.** Employees of unemployed employer are murdered. (R)

10.50 **Postcode Films.**

11.00 SuperCasino. 11.30 Film: Dead. (R) 1.30 Close Quarters. (R) 2.00 Your Sport. 2.05 Home Helpers. (R) 3.00 The Mitchells! Show. Lady Thomas & Friends. 3.30 Pokémon Fusion. (R)

Digital

ITV2

6.55 You've Been Framed! Presenting a never-ending flurry of in jokes. 7.25 The Xtra Factor. 8.00 Film: The Flintstones. (1994) 9.50 Holiday Homes from Hell. 9.00 Celebrities Undercover. 9.30 Celebrity Juice. The Hot Desk. 10.25 The Xtra Factor. 10.55 Film: Ocean's Thirteen. (2007)

ITV3

4.55 Hotel. 5.30 Inspector Morse. 6.40 Agatha Christie's Poirot. 8.00 Wire in the Blood. 11.00 Frasier.

ITV4

1.00 Live Tennis: The Hall ATP/CH Masters. 4.00 Live Tennis: The Hall ATP/CH Masters. 7.00 Live Tennis: The Hall ATP/CH Masters. 9.00 Cricket: The Ashes Review. 10.00 Film: Enemy at the Gates. (2001)

BBC THREE

7.00 Gavin & Stacey: The Greatest Ever Hits. 8.00 Top Gear. 9.00 Doctor Who. 9.45 Torchwood: Children of Earth. 10.45 Being Human. 11.45 Family Guy. 12.15 Family Guy.

BBC FOUR

7.00 Life. 8.00 Chef of the Year. 9.00 The Road to Coronation Street. 10.00 Mad Men. 11.00 Only On

E4

12.15 Hollyoaks. 8.00 Make It or Break It. 8.55 Friends. 9.25 Ugly Betty. 2.55 The Big Bang Theory. 3.30 Friends. 3.55 Gilmore Girls. 4.30 Desperate Housewives. 5.20 Cold Case.

FILM 4

5.00 The Dark Knight. (2008) 8.00 Ladies in Lavender. (2004) 10.00 Under the Greenwood Tree. (2001) Comedy, starring Alexander Lobley, Christopher Eccleston and Ian Watkins. 8.00 Jumper. (2008) Fantasy thriller, starring Hayden Christensen. 10.05 Apollo Ashes vs Pakistan – Review. (2010) 2011 Edition begins, starring Steve Waugh, Kevin Pietersen and Andrew Strauss.

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10.00am - 12.00 pm

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Saturday 15 January, 11am -1 pm
Thursday 20 January, 6.30pm -8.30pm
The Palace, The Close, Lichfield WS13 7LH

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Saturday 22 January 2011
11.15am-6.30pm

For more information call Mrs Lesley Bannister on **01543 306168** or email lesley.bannister@lichfieldcathedralschool.com

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Choice

THE NATION'S FAVOURITE ABBA SONG

ITV1, 9pm

Traditionally when a country other than the UK has the temerity to win the Eurovision Song Contest, it leads to an outbreak of grumbling about political voting and cries moaning about the impersonal jury. However, when Abba scored a victory in 1974 with Waterloo, not only did we consider ourselves good losers, we took the Swedish group to our hearts. But which of their 29 UK hits is our favourite? Trust the argument-free programme aimed to settle, not with Harry Hill-style fight, but with a public vote. Celebrity fans such as Pixie Gibb, Rose Lott and Rodric Schwing-er will also reveal what Abba's music means to them.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Match of the Day. (R) 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. 10.00 Peter Andre's Christmas Special with Kate Garraway. Teodoro. 10.30 The Politics Show. 11.00 Cash in the Celebrity Attic. (R) 11.30 Eastenders. 12.00 Dirty Dancing. 12.30 Points of View. 1.00 Songs of Praise. 1.45 BBC News. Regional News. Weather.

2.00 Regional Programmes.
2.30 Countryfile. Ellie Harrison becomes the human guinea pig for a pack of hamburglaps. Also, James Wong discovers a collection of hybrid vegetables, and Adam Henson visits a farm that enables children with learning difficulties how to care for animals.
3.30 Strictly Come Dancing. The contestant not result is announced.
4.30 Antiques Roadshow. From Chatsworth House, Derbyshire.
5.30 Eastenders. Lucy Gaskin and Ronnie Mitchell.
6.00 BBC News. Regional News. Weather.
6.15 The Impressions Show with Christmas and Stephenson. Jon Culshaw and Debra Stephenson impersonate famous faces.
7.00 The Apprentice. The seven candidates must buy unusual items at bargain prices. (R)
7.30 The Sky at Night. Weather news.

8.00 Sign Zone Coast. (R) 8.30 Holby City. (R) 9.30 Who Do You Think You Are? (R) 10.30 Secret Lives. (R) 11.30 BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 9.00 Something for the Weekend. 9.30 Fimbles. (R) 9.40 Tree Fu Tom. Summer Magic. (new) Disney-inspired comedy starring Hayley Mills. 11.05 Live Snooker: UK Championship. The opening sessions of four first-round matches. 1.00 Learning Live — Keep Your Kids in the Bananas.

3.00 FILM: Bird's Away. (2011) The Home Guard soldiers are put on stay-at-home duty, yet get ready to capture three German aviators. British comedy based on the TV series, starring Arthur Lowe and John Le Mesurier.
4.40 Jeremy Clarkson's Greatest Road of All Time. The Top Gear presenter explores the story of Churchill's Chariot, the Second World War commando raid on the French city dock of St Nazaire in March 1942. (R)
5.40 Operation Elizabeth. How Britain lured and Hitler into thinking the Allies were planning to invade Greece in 1944, allowing them to land in Sicily — their real target — with minimal resistance.
6.40 The Tip. Steve and Rob visit the Yorke Arms in North Yorkshire. (R)
7.10 Match of the Day 2. Highlights of today's two Premier League matches.
8.10 Never Mind the Buzzcocks. (R)

8.40 Snooker: UK Championship. 10.30 Snooker: UK Championship Extra. 11.00 BBC News. 11.20 Close.

ITV1

6.00 GTV. The Fluffy Club. 10.30 Top Gear. 11.30 Finger Tips. (R) 12.00 The X Factor. (R) 1.45 The Morning Sunday. 12.00 Wild Weather. 12.30 Regional Programmes. 12.30 Coronation Street. 1.00 Midsomer Murders. (R) 3.00 Classic Car of the Street. (R)

3.15 Regional Programmes.
3.45 ITV Local Weather.
3.50 Harry Hill's the Best of TV Burp. The comedian presents clips and quips from previous series. (R)
7.15 All Star Family Fortunes. Actress and glamour model Jennifer Ellison and ex-Blue star Antony Costa take on the Beverley Callard and Jeff Brazier clan.
8.00 Britain's Got Talent. Auditions continue in Birmingham.
9.00 The Jonathan Ross Christmas Special. Ross welcomes Robbie Williams, Jessie J, Jason Manford, Jimmy Carr, Rihanna and Russell Brand.
10.30 The Jonathan Ross Christmas Special. Ross welcomes Robbie Williams, Jessie J, Jason Manford, Jimmy Carr, Rihanna and Russell Brand.
11.30 ITV News. Weather.
11.40 FILM: Hoodwinked. (2007) Fantasy. Comedy starring Anne Hathaway, Glenn Close, Patrick Warburton and Andy Dick.

12.35 Premiership Rugby Union. 1.30 The Zone. ITV News Headlines. 2.00 Motorcycle UK. 2.30 ITV Nightscreen. 3.00 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4

6.00 Get Knit. (R) 6.30 The Treasure People. (R) 7.00 Vic Reeves' Big Night Out. (R) 8.00 Frasier. Festival comes to Seattle. 8.30 Frasier. Niles and Daphne are at odds. 9.00 World of Big Dreams. 10.00 Ten Pin Bowling. 10.30 Live and Loud. 11.00 Ice Dogs. Behind the scenes at Elvis Presley's Graceland. 11.30 The Rhys Darby Show. 12.00 Dubai Sport. 1.00 Ten Pin Bowling. (R) 2.00 The Simpsons. (R) 2.30 The Simpsons. (R) 3.00 Film: Nine Months. (2005) Romantic comedy starring Hugh Grant, Julianne Moore and Tom Arnold. 5.00 Deal or No Deal. 5.30 Film: Final Cut. (2000) Premiere. Comedy starring Vince Vaughn.

6.00 Channel 4 News.
6.30 Who's Line Is It Anyway? Clarke Lee, Jason Manford and Josh Widdicombe improvise games.
7.00 Undercover Boss USA. An executive from a company that manages a number of America's most prestigious racecourses goes undercover as an entry-level employee — but must overcome his own fear of horses.
8.00 Any Human Heart. Logan finds success and moves to New York, but still cannot cope without Freya and Dido. He begins an affair in London, only for his past to catch up with him.
9.00 Desperate Housewives. Gabrielle and Carlos host a Thanksgiving feast.
10.00 Brothers & Sons. With Mark Watson, Stephen Mangan, Daniel Sloss and Vanessa Feltz. (R)

11.00 The Real Housewives of New Jersey. 12.00 American Football Live. 12.30 Tennis: Barclays ATP World Tour Finals. (R) 1.30 Cricket Classics. (R)

Channel Five

6.00 Milkshake! Peppa Pig. 8.00 Fireman Sam. 8.30 Roary the Racing Car. (R) 9.00 Pip and the Pipsqueaks. (R) 9.30 Thomas & Friends. (R) 10.00 Postman Pat's Special Delivery Service. (R) 10.30 Bob the Builder. (R) 11.00 Mike the Knight. (R) 11.30 Fireman Sam. (R) 12.00 Peppa Pig. (R) 12.30 Roary the Racing Car. (R) 1.00 Milkshake! 2.00 Mr Men Show. (R) 2.30 Little Princess. (R) 3.00 The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Derby. (R) 3.30 Postman Pat. (R) 4.00 Cuddle Farm. (R) 4.30 Olivia. (R) 5.00 The Mr Men Show. (R) 5.30 Escape Smiler. (R) 6.00 Ghost Cody. 6.30 The Jackson Vs. 10.00 Your Sport. (R) 11.00 Street Market Chefs. (R) 12.00 Emergency Show. (R) 12.30 Extreme Fishing with Robson Green. (R) 1.30 The Baby Connection. (1966) 3.00 Film: Cats & Dogs. (2001) 5.00 Five News. 5.30 Film: Frozen. (1966)

7.00 Britain's Straightest Mystery Recorded. An investigation into the fabled relationship between Bernard's Florida and Florida Rock. (R) Five News at 9.
9.00 FILM: 2012: The Next Level. (2009) A government engineer recruits an ex-special soldier to stop a military organisation from overthrowing the American government. Action sequel, with Ice Cube.
11.00 FILM: The Amerithug. (2009) Thriller, starring Wesley Snipes.

1.10 Super Cops vs Gangs. 2.00 Home Duchess. (R) 3.00 Your Sport. (R) 5.00 Home Helpline. (R) 5.30 The Milkshake Show. (R) 6.00 Thomas & Friends. (R) 6.30 Roary the Racing Car. (R)

Digital

ITV2
2.20 FILM: The PREACHER (1934) 5.05 Film: Apollo 13. (1995) 6.00 The Vampire Diaries. 9.00 The X Factor. 10.00 Harry Hill's Comedy Show. 11.00 Film: Couch Trip. (2000)

ITV3
5.05 Film: Aces of the Treetops. (1967) 6.00 The Comedy Britz of Lucy Ball. 6.30 Classic Point. 7.00 Inspector Morse. 10.00 Film: In the Name of the Father. (1993)

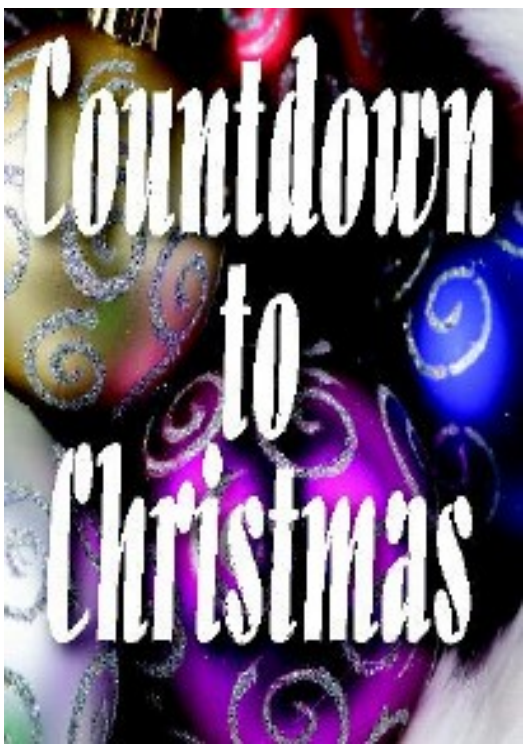
ITV4
1.00 Live Tennis. The ATP World Tour. 5.00 Film: Four 5.05 Film: Flash Gordon. (1980) 6.00 Premiership Rugby Union. 8.00 Poker. Games. Action! 10.00 Cricket. The Ashes. 11.00 Film: Out of Time. (1999)

BBC THREE
7.00 Fresh Like No 7.30 Switch. 8.00 Gods & Monsters. 8.30 How Not to Live Your Life. 10.00 Family Guy. 10.35 American Dad! 11.00 Gods & Monsters.

BBC FOUR
7.00 The Incredible Hulk. 7.50 Horizon. 8.50 Dispatches. 9.30 Inspector Morse. 11.30 Match of the Day. 12.30 Film: Chasing. (2010)

5.30 Film: Jazz Up Lucy. (1951) 6.00 Film: 6.40 Dive. 7.00 Life Unexpected. 7.55 Film: 8.00 Film: Follow to Lunch. (2004) 9.55 Rosie Tube. 11.55 Film: Daisy Kenny. (1937)

FILM4
2.40 George of Lunch. (1945) 4.25 Film: (1950) 5.55 Film: the Planets. (2004) Action adventure movie, starring Derek Guill, Tyler Black, Richard Kind and Michael Clarke Duncan. Comic Adventurer, Lucas Tranter, Captain, Doug Roth, Ojo Espinosa, Henry Lee Cooper and Christie Erickson. 10.30 Trailer: Out in The Flesh of Dudley. (2007) Comedy starring Jack Black, Kim Coates, Ethel Lust, Dave Grohl, Tim Robbins, Ben Stiller and Adam O'Reilly.



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the pulse

Monday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Fiji Off Britain. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Real Rescues. 11.55 To Buy or Not to Buy. BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.55 Doctors. 2.15 Midday. (R) 3.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Weakest Link. 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 Inside Out. BBC News; Regional News. 8.00 EastEnders. 8.30 Absolute Genius with Dick Strawbridge. 9.00 Accused. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 A Question of Sport. 11.05 Inside Sport. The Marion Jones Story. 11.35 The Graham Norton Show. (R) Weatherview. 12.30 Sign Zone. The Apprentice. (R) 1.30 MasterChef: The Professionals. (R) 2.55 The Story of Science - Power, Proof and Passion. (R) 3.55 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.30 Film: 2010 with Claudia Winkleman. (R) 12.00 Daily Politics. 12.30 Live Snooker. UK Championship. 5.30 Politics. (R) 5.15 The Hairy Bikers' Cook Off. 6.00 Eggheads. (R) 6.30 Strictly Come Dancing - It Takes Two. 7.00 Live Snooker: UK Championship. The opening session of the first four second-round matches. 8.00 University Challenge. 8.30 Mastermind. 9.00 Ian Hislop's Age of the Do-Gooders. 10.00 The Tip. 10.30 Newsnight; Weather. 11.20 Snooker: UK Championship. 12.30 Snooker: UK Championship Extra. 2.10 BBC News. 3.55 Close.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 9.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 House Gift. 3.00 Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) 3.50 Regional Weather. 9.00 Midsomer Murders. (R) 5.00 The Alan Titchmarsh Show. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 Coronation Street. 8.00 Coronation Street. The Historic Rat Episode. (R) 8.30 Coronation Street. 9.00 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! Continued. 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 The Day John Lennon Died. 11.35 Kings of Leon: Exposed. All Areas. (R) 12.30 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.30 UEFA Champions League Weekly. 3.00 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 3.55 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.30 Sail Mail. (R) 6.45 The Really People. (R) 6.25 Planet Cook. (R) 6.45 Yo Gabba Gabba. (R) 7.20 Freshly Squeezed. 7.40 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.05 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.35 Frasier. (R) 9.00 According to Jim. (R) 9.30 Friends. (R) 10.00 One Tree Hill. 11.05 Smallville. 12.00 Channel 4 News Summary. 12.05 3 Minute Wonder: The Turner Prize 2010. (R) 12.10 River Cottage Bites. (R) 12.20 Iron Chef UK. 1.25 Film: Ghosts of Berkeley Square. (1947) 3.25 Countdown. 4.15 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Come Dine with Me. 5.30 Four In a Bed. 6.00 The Simpsons. 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.55 4thoughts. 8.00 Kirstie and Phil's Perfect Christmas. 9.00 The Family. 10.00 Frankie Boyle's Tramadol Nights. 10.45 The Morgana Show. 11.10 The Big Bang Theory. 11.35 Robert's Web. (R) 12.30 Bull Run. 12.50 World B-Boy Series. (R) 1.50 Freeports on 4. (R) 2.25 Snooker Masters. 4.30 Football Focus. 5.30 World Sport. (R) 3.20 Selling. (R) 3.45 Afterworld. (R) 4.10 Brothers & Sisters. (R) 4.55 ER. (R) 5.40 Deal or No Deal. Catch Up.

Channel Five 6.00 Milkshake! 8.15 The Wright Stuff. 10.05 Tricia Goddard. (R) 11.05 House Doctor. (R) 12.00 House Doctor. (R) 12.50 Five News. 12.55 Killer Lion Stakeout: Austin Stevens' Adventures. (R) 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 Home and Away. 2.50 Animal Rescue Squad. (R) 3.05 The Family Recipe. (R) 3.15 Film: Avalanche Express. (1979) Thriller, with Lee Marvin. 5.00 Five News; Weather. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. (R) 6.25 Live from Studio Five. 7.00 Five News at 7. 7.30 How Do They Do It?. Five News. 8.00 The Gadget Show. Five News. 9.00 Extreme Fighting with Robson Green. 10.00 Film: Blade. (1998) 12.25 UFC 123: Main Event. 1.20 SuperCasino. 4.00 The FBI Files. (R) 4.45 House Doctor. (R)

Tuesday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Fiji Off Britain. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Real Rescues. 11.55 To Buy or Not to Buy. BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.55 Doctors. 2.15 Midday. (R) 3.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Weakest Link. 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 EastEnders. BBC News; Regional News. 8.00 Holby City. 9.00 Turn Back Time - The High Street. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Imagine. 11.10 Flint: The Clandestine Marriage. (1999) Period comedy drama, starring Joan Collins; Weatherview. 1.10 Sign Zone: See Hear. (R) 1.40 MasterChef: The Professionals. (R) 3.30 Renaissance Revolution. (R) 4.30 The Bone Wet. (R) 5.00 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.30 Animal Park. (R) 12.00 Daily Politics. 12.30 Live Snooker: UK Championship. The opening sessions in four second-round matches. 5.30 Politics. (R) 5.15 The Hairy Bikers' Cook Off. 6.00 Eggheads. (R) 6.30 Strictly Come Dancing - It Takes Two. 7.00 Live Snooker: UK Championship. The second round of the ranking event reaches a conclusion. 8.00 Natural World Special: Panda Makers. 8.00 The Foods That Make Billions. 10.00 Miranda. (R) 10.30 Newsnight; Weather. 11.20 Snooker: UK Championship. 12.20 Snooker: UK Championship Extra. 2.10 BBC News. 9.30 Close.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 9.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 House Gift. 3.00 Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) 3.50 Regional Weather. 9.00 Midsomer Murders. (R) 5.00 The Alan Titchmarsh Show. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 Can You Keep a Secret?. Tonight. 8.00 Emmerdale. 8.30 Coronation Street. 9.00 Coronation Street. 9.30 Celebrity Juice. 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Film: Antique Thief. (1988) Comedy, starring Robert De Niro and Billy Crystal. 12.30 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.30 The Rockford Files. 3.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 4.20 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.35 Planet Cook. (R) 6.55 Yo Gabba Gabba. (R) 7.20 Freshly Squeezed. 7.45 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.10 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.40 Frasier. (R) 9.10 According to Jim. (R) 9.40 Friends. (R) 10.10 One Tree Hill. 11.05 Smallville. 12.00 Channel 4 News Summary. 12.05 3 Minute Wonder: The Turner Prize 2010. (R) 12.10 River Cottage Bites. (R) 12.20 Iron Chef UK. 1.25 Film: American Guerilla in the Philippines. (1950) Second World War drama, starring Tyrone Power. 3.25 Countdown. 4.15 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Come Dine with Me. 5.30 Four In a Bed. 6.00 The Simpsons. 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.55 4thoughts. 8.00 Kirstie and Phil's Perfect Christmas. 9.00 The Family. 10.00 Frankie Boyle's Tramadol Nights. 10.45 The Morgana Show. 11.10 The Big Bang Theory. 11.35 Robert's Web. (R) 12.30 Bull Run. 12.50 World B-Boy Series. (R) 1.50 Freeports on 4. (R) 2.25 Snooker Masters. 4.30 Football Focus. 5.30 World Sport. (R) 3.20 Selling. (R) 3.45 Afterworld. (R) 4.10 Brothers & Sisters. (R) 4.55 ER. (R) 5.40 Deal or No Deal. Catch Up.

Channel Five 6.00 Milkshake! 8.15 The Wright Stuff. 10.05 Tricia Goddard. (R) 11.05 House Doctor. (R) 12.00 House Doctor. (R) 12.50 Five News. 12.55 Deadly Jungle Rattlesnake: Austin Stevens' Adventures. (R) 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 Home and Away. 2.50 Film: Alone. (1997) Drama, starring Hume Cronyn. 5.00 Five News; Weather. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. (R) 6.25 Live from Studio Five. 7.00 Five News at 7. 7.30 Street Market Chefs; Five News Update. 8.00 Sea Patrol UK; Five News at 9. 9.00 CSI: Miami. 10.00 CSI: NY. (R) Five News Update. 11.00 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. (R) 12.00 True CSI. (R) 1.00 SuperCasino. 5.00 The FBI Files. (R) 4.45 House Doctor. (R) 5.30 Milkshake! Wild Challenge. (R)

Wednesday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Fiji Off Britain. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Real Rescues. 11.55 To Buy or Not to Buy. BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.55 Doctors. 2.15 Midday. (R) 3.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Weakest Link. (R) 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 Wallace & Gromit's World of Invention. BBC News; Regional News. 8.00 Jimmy's Food Factory. 8.30 Nigel Slater's Simple Suppers. 9.00 The Apprentice. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 The National Lottery: Wednesday Night Draw. 10.45 Film 2010 with Claudia Winkleman. National Lottery Update. 11.25 Film: The Perfect Storm. (2000) Weatherview. 1.30 Sign Zone: Country Tracks. (R) 2.25 Great British Waste Menu. (R) 3.55 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.30 Daily Politics. 12.00 See Hear. 1.30 Live Snooker: UK Championship. The opening sessions of the first two quarter-finals. 5.30 Politics. (R) 5.15 The Hairy Bikers' Cook Off. 6.00 Eggheads. (R) 6.30 Strictly Come Dancing - It Takes Two. 7.00 Live Snooker: UK Championship. The concluding sessions of the two opening quarter-finals. 8.00 Edwardian Farm. 9.00 Angles on Britain. 10.00 The Apprentice: You're Fired. 10.30 Newsnight; Weather. 11.20 Snooker: UK Championship. 12.10 The Foods That Make Billions. (R) 1.10 BBC News. 3.55 Close.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 9.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 House Gift. 3.00 Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) 3.50 Regional Weather. 9.00 Midsomer Murders. (R) 5.00 The Alan Titchmarsh Show. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Coronation Street. 7.30 Live: UEFA Champions League. Arsenal v Partizan Belgrade. Kick-off 7.45pm. 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 UEFA Champions League Extra Time. 12.35 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.35 Film: The Cowboy Way. (1994) 4.20 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 5.20 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.30 Planet Cook. (R) 6.50 Yo Gabba Gabba. (R) 7.15 Freshly Squeezed. 7.40 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.05 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.35 Frasier. (R) 9.00 According to Jim. (R) 9.30 Friends. (R) 10.00 One Tree Hill. 11.05 Smallville. 12.00 Channel 4 News Summary. 12.05 3 Minute Wonder: The Turner Prize 2010. (R) 12.10 River Cottage Bites. (R) 12.20 Iron Chef UK. 1.20 Film: Wake of the Red Witch. (1949) Romantic seafaring adventure, starring John Wayne and Gail Russell. 3.25 Countdown. 4.10 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Come Dine with Me. 5.30 Four In a Bed. 6.00 The Simpsons. 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.55 4thoughts. 8.00 Kirstie and Phil's Perfect Christmas. 9.00 Grand Designs. 10.00 Rude Tube. (R) 11.05 The Event. (R) 12.05 Music on 4: On Track. 12.20 Music on 4: The Album Chart Show. 1 Dub Special. (R) 12.50 Music on 4: Mercury Prize Sessions. (R) 1.50 Music on 4: Album Chart Show Spotlight. 2.20 Film: Oldboy. (2003) Korean revenge thriller, starring Choi Min-sik. 3.20 Brothers & Sisters. (R) 4.05 The Hill. 4.50 Hill Street Blues. (R) 5.40 Countdown. (R)

Channel Five 6.00 Milkshake! 8.15 The Wright Stuff. 10.05 Tricia Goddard. (R) 11.05 House Doctor. (R) 12.00 House Doctor. (R) 12.50 Five News. 12.55 Jaws of the Hippo: Austin Stevens' Adventures. (R) 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 Home and Away. 2.50 The Family Recipe. (R) 2.55 Medic In Moments. (R) 3.05 Film: Two Against Time. (2002) 5.00 Five News; Weather. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. (R) 6.25 Live from Studio Five. 7.00 Five News at 7. 7.30 Highland Emergency. Five News Update. 8.00 Emergency Bikers; Five News at 9. 9.00 NCIS. (R) 10.00 Law & Order: Criminal Intent. 10.55 Law & Order. (R) 11.55 Poker. 12.50 SuperCasino.

Thursday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Fiji Off Britain. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Real Rescues. 11.55 To Buy or Not to Buy. BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.55 Doctors. 2.15 Midday. (R) 3.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Weakest Link. (R) 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 EastEnders. BBC News; Regional News. 8.00 The Apprentice: The Final Five. 9.00 How I Got Here for You. 9.30 Live at the Apollo. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Question Time. 11.35 Film: Week Skiing. Weather. 12.30 Sign Zone: Addicted to Connect. Panorama. (R) 1.00 Countryfile. (R) 1.55 Antiques Roadshow. (R) 2.55 The Young Ones. (R) 3.55 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.30 Animal Park. (R) 12.00 Daily Politics. 12.30 Live Snooker: UK Championship. The opening sessions in the remaining two quarter-finals. 5.30 Politics. (R) 5.15 The Hairy Bikers' Cook Off. 6.00 Eggheads. (R) 6.30 Strictly Come Dancing - It Takes Two. 7.00 Live Snooker: UK Championship. The concluding sessions of the two remaining quarter-finals. 8.00 Nigella Kitchen. 8.30 Rick Stein's Cornish Christmas. 9.00 At Home with the Georgians. 10.00 How Art Made the Baroque. 10.30 Newsnight; Weather. 11.20 The Apprentice: You're Fired. 12.00 Snooker: UK Championship. 12.50 BBC News. 3.55 Close.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 9.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 House Gift. 3.00 Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) 3.50 Regional Weather. 9.00 Midsomer Murders. (R) 5.00 The Alan Titchmarsh Show. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 8.00 Coronation Street. Live. 8.00 Coronation Street. 30 Years, 30 Moments. 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Coronation Street Live. (R) 11.35 The Late Debate. 12.05 Grimelighters. (R) 12.35 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.35 Surface. (R) 3.20 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 4.15 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.25 Sail Mail. (R) 6.30 Planet Cook. (R) 6.50 Yo Gabba Gabba. (R) 7.15 Freshly Squeezed. 7.45 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.10 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.40 Frasier. (R) 9.10 According to Jim. (R) 9.40 Friends. (R) 10.10 One Tree Hill. 11.05 Smallville. 12.00 Channel 4 News Summary. 12.05 3 Minute Wonder: The Turner Prize 2010. (R) 12.10 River Cottage Bites. (R) 12.20 Iron Chef UK. 1.20 Film: The Last Wagon. (1956) Western, starring Richard Widmark. 3.25 Countdown. 4.10 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Come Dine with Me. 5.30 Four In a Bed. 6.00 The Simpsons. 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.55 4thoughts. 8.00 Kirstie and Phil's Perfect Christmas. 9.00 The House That Made Me: Boy George. 10.00 Film: My Best Friend's Wedding. (1997) Romantic comedy, with Julia Roberts and Dermot Mulroney. 12.00 Reaper. 12.55 Ring of the Hill. 1.45 Our Magic Year. 2.40 Dispatches: The Kids Britain Doesn't Want. (R) 3.30 Brothers & Sisters. (R) 4.15 ER. (R) 5.00 One Tree Hill. 5.45 Countdown. (R)

Channel Five 6.00 Milkshake! 8.15 The Wright Stuff. 10.05 Tricia Goddard. (R) 11.05 House Doctor. (R) 12.00 House Doctor. (R) 12.55 Five News. 12.50 Elephant Charge: Austin Stevens' Adventures. (R) 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 Home and Away. 2.50 Medic In Moments. (R) 3.00 Medic In Moments. (R) 3.10 Film: Wishing Well. (2008) Fantasy drama. 5.00 Five News; Weather. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. (R) 6.25 Live from Studio Five. 7.00 Five News at 7. 7.30 Highland Emergency. Five News Update. 8.00 Silver Pharaoh Mystery: Revealed. Five News at 9. 9.00 Film: Men of Honor. (2000) 11.15 The World of Stupid Criminals. 12.05 SuperCasino. 4.00 The FBI Files. (R) 4.45 House Doctor. (R)

Friday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Fiji Off Britain. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Real Rescues. 11.55 To Buy or Not to Buy. BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.55 Doctors. 2.15 Midday. (R) 3.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Weakest Link. (R) 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 A Question of Sport. (R) BBC News; Regional News. 8.00 EastEnders. 8.30 Call the Midwife. 9.00 Strictly Come Dancing. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 The Graham Norton Show. 11.20 The National Lottery: Friday Night Draw. 11.30 Film: Dirty Dancing 2: Havana Nights. (2004) Weatherview. 12.55 Sign Zone: The Normans. (R) 1.55 Horizon: The Death of the Dinosaur? (R) 2.55 The Young Ones. (R) 3.55 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.30 Animal Park. (R) 12.00 Daily Politics. 12.30 Live Snooker: UK Championship. The opening session in the remaining two quarter-finals. 5.30 Politics. (R) 5.15 The Hairy Bikers' Cook Off. 6.00 Eggheads. (R) 6.30 Strictly Come Dancing - It Takes Two. 7.00 Live Snooker: UK Championship. The second and concluding session of the first semi-final. 7.30 Match of the Day Live. Queens Park Rangers v Watford. (Kick-off 7.45pm). 10.30 The Stephen K Amos Show. 11.30 Newsnight. 12.00 The Review Show; Weather. 11.50 Snooker: UK Championship. 12.40 Film: Micklethwait. (2006) Drama, starring Matthew Macfadyen. 2.05 Close.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 9.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 House Gift. 3.00 Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) 3.50 Regional Weather. 9.00 Midsomer Murders. (R) 5.00 The Alan Titchmarsh Show. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 8.00 Coronation Street. 8.30 Countrywise Kitchen. 9.30 Coronation Street. 9.00 Coronation Street. 9.01 The Big 90. 10.30 ITV News; Weather. 11.00 Regional News; Weather. 11.05 Film: Taking Lives. (2004) Detective thriller, starring Angelina Jolie. 1.00 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.00 Film: Spedec: The Awakening. (2007) Sci-fi horror sequel, starring Helena Mattsson. 4.00 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.30 Planet Cook. (R) 6.50 Yo Gabba Gabba. (R) 7.15 Freshly Squeezed. 7.40 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.05 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.35 Frasier. (R) 9.05 According to Jim. (R) 9.35 Friends. (R) 10.05 One Tree Hill. 11.00 Smallville. 12.00 Channel 4 News Summary. 12.05 Iron Chef UK. 1.05 Channel 4 Racing. 3.25 Countdown. 4.10 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Come Dine with Me. 5.30 Four In a Bed. 6.00 The Simpsons. 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.55 4thoughts. 8.00 Kirstie and Phil's Perfect Christmas. 9.00 The Event. 10.00 Peep Show. 10.30 Robert's Web. 11.05 Frankie Boyle's Tramadol Nights. 11.50 The Morgana Show. (R) 12.30 Dylan Moran: What It Is. (R) 1.30 Music on 4: Live at Ruskin Standard Originals. 1.25 Music on 4: On Track. (R) 1.40 Music on 4: Pitch Lake. 1.50 The Wheels in Music Top 20. 3.15 King of the Hill. 3.30 ER. (R) 4.55 One Tree Hill. 5.40 Countdown. (R)

Channel Five 6.00 Milkshake! 8.15 The Wright Stuff. 9.45 Tricia Goddard. (R) 11.15 House Doctor. (R) 12.30 House Doctor. (R) 12.50 Five News. 12.55 Man-Eating Leopards: Austin Stevens' Adventures. (R) 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 Home and Away. 2.50 Animal Rescue Squad. (R) 3.05 Film: Angel in the Family. (2004) 5.00 Five News; Weather. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. (R) 6.25 Live from Studio Five. 7.00 Five News at 7. 7.30 Film: Deep Five. Five News Update. 8.00 White Van Man: Five News at 8. 9.00 The Mentalist. 10.00 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. 10.55 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. 11.55 Cops In Crisis. (R) 12.15 SuperCasino. 4.05 Motorsport Mundial. 4.20 Street Market Chefs.

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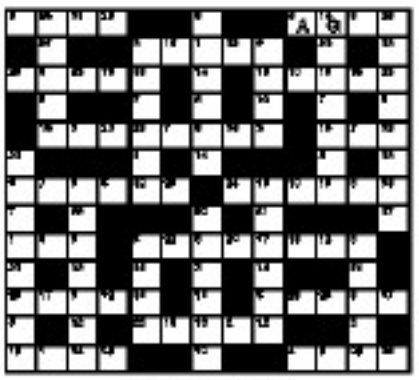
Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) in the right of the main grid to help you fill



1	G
3	14
5	16
4	17
6	18
7	20
8	A 21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

E	T	X	O	K	A	D	H	M	Z	I	L	C
V	J	Q	B	F	G	R	U	S	W	N	P	V

WEAR IT WITH PRIDE!

Double Crossword

Choose a few quick cryptic clues - both in the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Sun no problem for part of Lebanon (4)
3. Avoiding the worst in court (5)
9. Raised at the bottom? (6)
10. Kin kept indoors (6)
11. Work he does in the outdoors forming polar cap/equivalent? (6, 6)
12. Drill before to count (7)
13. Accordingly permeate (4, 2)
17. Turn a blind eye on a companion used to know? (4, 2, 7)
20. Time zone revolting feelings (6)
21. A cone for a moon dome (4)
22. Object used for Bond's credit (6)
23. Attorney to be good studio (6)

Down

1. Electronic you couldn't blame up (8, 4)
2. Opposite, yet directly adjacent personnel (5, 2)
3. Commander in action from the yacht mix (5)
4. Cricket side in pubs and swimpens for a place in the mob fun? (4, 6)
5. Holiday for last used in finance (5)
7. A third useless record object? (6)
8. Remain unaware of a bygone age? (4, 6)
12. A wicket little caroling for trendy (8)
14. Thieves am all tense in the town (7)
16. Sum up of the chaos on plan with confusion (6)
18. Go on track, unsure to take Boris Harry (5)
19. Corn shield cover to SURREALLY (4)

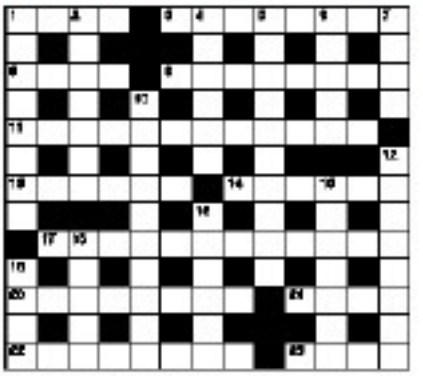
Quick Clues:

Across

1. HOOKEY (4)
3. Architectural term: (6, 6)
9. Chaos (4)
10. Likely (5)
11. Good vision (10)
13. Wicked man (6)
14. Admit (5)
17. Cherry (5,5)
20. Water hen (6)
21. Immoral (4)
22. Crosby (6)
23. Kin cannot (6)

Down

1. ROSEBY (6)
3. Cemetery (7)
4. Knee (6)
5. Unpleasant (10)
6. Glint (5)
7. Other (6)
10. Tape player (6,4)
12. Outlook (6)
15. Tolerate (7)
16. Heavy frost (6)
18. Thing (5)
19. Circuit (4)



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

ACROSS: 1 Solo, 4 Sole, 8 Sailor, 9 Sailors, 10 Oscar, 11 Rise, 12 Rescue, 13 Valley, 16 Score, 18 Saints, 20 Rules, 22 Hold, 23 Sorbet, 24 Scrummage. Down: 2 Order, 3 Trade, 4 Sale, 5 Lines, 6 Hotel, 7 Sailboat, 8 Sandcastle, 14 Lunch, 15 Parade, 17 Rugby, 18 Shot, 21 Tide. QUICK - Across: 1 HOOKEY, 3 Offside, 9 Reefs, 10 Reefs, 11 Sound, 13 Satanic, 14 Admit, 17 Cherry, 20 Sharks, 21 Under, 22 Cable, 23 Sabbath. Down: 1 Hesitate, 2 Sandbank, 3 Cathedral, 4 Knee, 5 Unpleasant, 6 Glint, 7 Other, 10 Tape player, 12 Outlook, 15 Tolerate, 16 Heavy frost, 18 Thing, 19 Circuit

Sudoku

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contain all the digits from 1 to 9.

		1				8		9
5		8		2		7		3
9							1	
	1		7		6	3		
	5	6						4
		3	8		1		5	
	8			8		4		7
6		7		8				1
3		2					6	

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The Blackpool lass who's now a towering performer

From reality show to stardom, Jodie Prenger talks to **LEON BURAKOWSKI** about Spamalot, a TV show . . . and her pets

I'D Do Anything winner Jodie Prenger is looking on the bright side of life, having left the cast of Oliver! to star in touring Monty Python musical Spamalot and with a TV sitcom to be broadcast in the new year.

The Blackpool belter is playing a showbiz diva in the musical featuring Always Look On The Bright Side Of Life and she will take a lead role in BBC show Candy Cabs, a comedy from the writers of Dalziel and Pasco.

It's about a 'women only' taxi firm in the North-West and also features ex-EastEnder Jo Joyner, Lisa Millett and Claire Sweeney.

In the two years since the public chose Jodie, over the judges' favourites, to win the coveted role of Nancy in the West End revival of Oliver!, her rollercoaster career ride has been on a permanent up.

She has become a regular on TV and radio, presenting the Lottery Show, covering for Elaine Paige and Paul O'Grady on Radio 2, and making lots of concert appearances, many with her showbiz pal John Barrowman.She also made an album of nostalgic wartime songs and has a new album coming out on major label Sony next year.

Before I'd Do Anything, Jodie first got sometimes unflattering exposure on reality weight loss show The Biggest Loser (she lost 8st) but has no regrets. "It gave me my health back," says the size 14 songstress. I try to get out and exercise but I love my food. I couldn't be one of those people who sniff a lettuce leaf.

But her biggest love, as those who saw her help pick the dog to play Toto on Over The Rainbow may guess, are her animals.

"I've got loads of pets back home in Blackpool where I lived with my mum and dad," she says. "Three dogs, two parrots, pet chickens, got a tortoise, two rabbits, one cockatiel, two budgies and some fish . . . and obviously Hogan is with me.

"Hogan Jacko Prenger, he is a Yorkshire terrier, the son of my other one at home. He's still a puppy. He's very good."

She will be lighting up the stage at the Alexandra Theatre in some amazing gowns as the Lady of the Lake - a mickey take of showbiz leading ladies - in the musical based on Monty Python and the Holy Grail. "I saw Spamalot on the West End and loved the show, loved the comedy, loved the costumes, loved the sets - I loved everything about it. So when I got asked to do it, I jumped at the chance," Jodie says.

But wasn't she worried that it made fun of the showbiz world she now inhabits? "It's got to be done. If you can't laugh at yourself what can you laugh at?" she answers. "I can't stand 'starry' people."

Jodie learned her craft the hard way, on the northern cabaret circuit, supporting the likes of comedians Jimmy Cricket and the late Bernard Manning.

"Oh, the Manning crowd," she looks to the ceiling as she speaks. "They had about five teeth between them. "The cabaret circuit was hard graft but it really helped me, to be able to have a good laugh with an audience and I sang all the songs of the musicals.

"I'd Do Anything was hard, you had to put on this amazing show every week but doing something you love doing doesn't really feel like work.

"I owe the public a gazillion thank-yous. It is everything I have dreamt of. Dressing up and singing these songs, it's like being a kid."

Spamalot is staged at the Alexandra Theatre from December 7 to January 1. Jodie will not be appearing on December 22, 23, 24 and 26 because she'll be going home to Blackpool to spend Christmas with her family.

Jodie Prenger who is starring as the Lady of the Lake in Spamalot at the Alexander

Josh, older and wiser

A BROKEN heart inspired the lyrics of Hold Me Down, this year's hit album from young Surrey rockers You Me At Six, who headline at Wolverhampton Civic Hall next week.

Frontman Josh Franceschi told the Chronicle: "I have only had my heart broken once.

"The relationship with my long term girlfriend finished just before the band began work on Hold Me Down.

"It was a cathartic process. I poured my emotions into the lyrics. I think that is why people can identify with it."

The success of the second album from the melodic power punks has catapulted them from the Wulfrun Hall two years ago to playing to more than five thousand fans at the Civic on Monday and Tuesday.

Josh says the arenas are next. "We are planning an arena tour for next year," he revealed. "That's the next step.

"There are different types of euphoria depending on the venue.

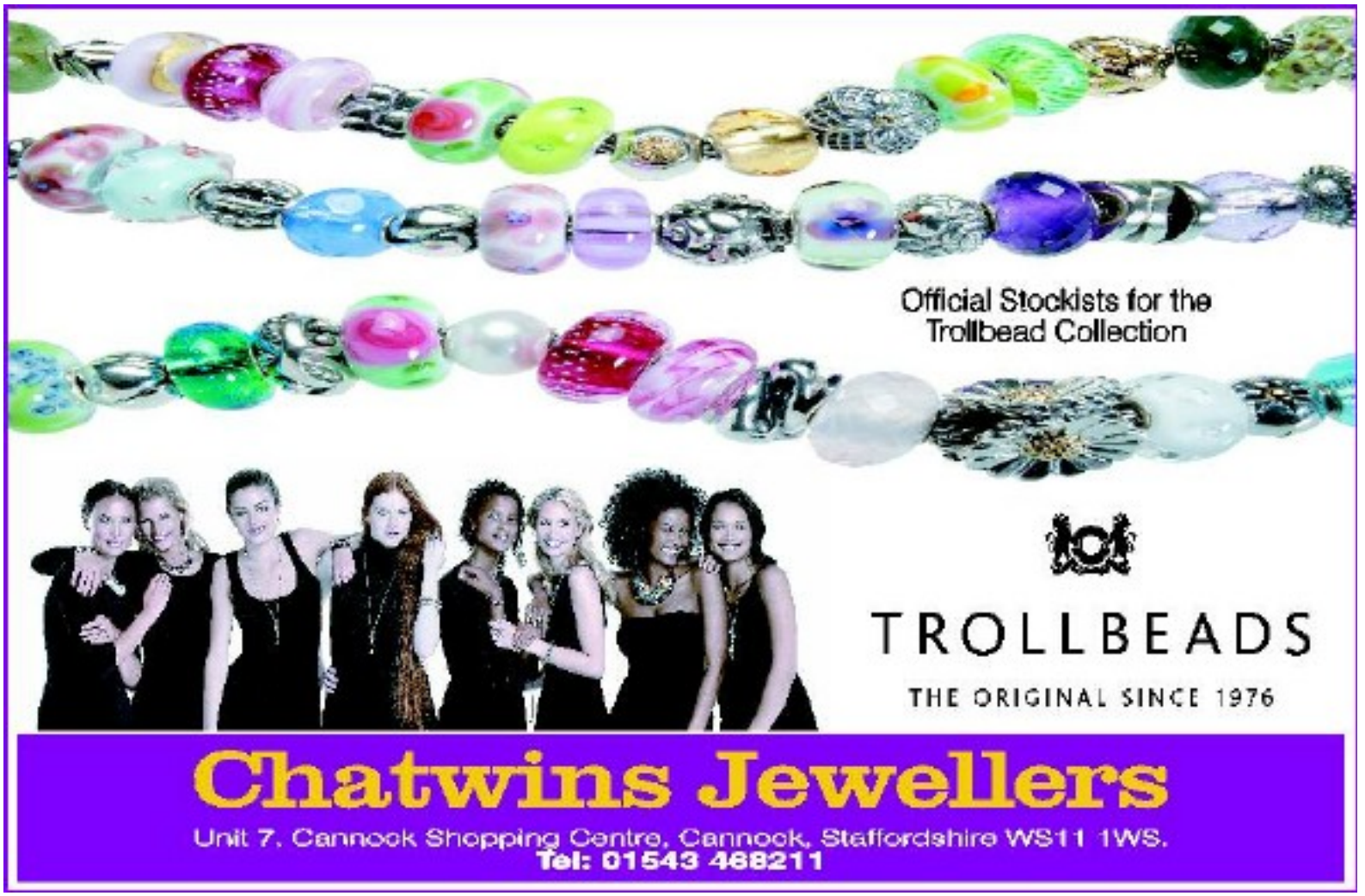
"I enjoy playing an intimate venue where there are no barriers and everyone is sweaty and I am just a step away from the fans but I also enjoy playing in front of thousands at an arena."

He said that some of the songs from debut album Take Off Your Colours may be reworked at the Civic gigs. "Some of those songs were written when we were 15 to 16 years old. Now we're 21-year-olds," he explained.

"But we always keep in mind what our fans like. We feel like they've grown up with us.

"It's good to be coming back to Wolverhampton."

Josh Franceschi



Home of Property
connecting people with property
homeofproperty.co.uk

The top property guide for Cannock, Heath Hayes, Penkridge, Great Wyrley, Rugeley, Hednesford, Burntwood and Lichfield

Detached home in a quiet cul-de-sac

This detached family home has many attractive features including an en suite shower room, extensive gardens, a driveway and garage

There is a bespoke stone fireplace housing a flame-effect gas fire in the lounge

The enclosed rear garden has a shaped lawn, patio, shed and large fish pond

CRESIDENTIAL is offering for sale an extended three-bedroomed detached family home set on a corner plot in Rugeley.

Number 38 Pine View is located in a cul-de-sac and has uPVC double glazing, gas central heating, a dining room, study, master bedroom with en suite shower room, gardens, garage and driveway. It is on the market for offers in the region of £169,995.

A uPVC double-glazed front door opens into an entrance hallway with Amtico wooden flooring, an alarm panel and door to a downstairs WC.

The 16ft 3in x 15ft 9in lounge has a bespoke stone fireplace with inset gas fire on a marble hearth, ceiling coving, understairs storage and double doors to the dining room, which has a decorative dado rail, ceiling coving and French doors opening onto the rear garden.

In the adjoining study, there's a range of built-in office furniture, ceiling coving and a useful storage cupboard.

Comprehensive

The breakfast kitchen features a comprehensive range of wall and base mounted units, worksurfaces, a corner acrylic sink unit with mixer tap, stainless steel electric oven with five ring gas hob and extractor hood over, space and plumbing for a dishwasher and washing machine, wall mounted plate racks, Amtico flooring and doors to the dining room and rear garden.

Upstairs, the master bedroom has a decorative dado rail, ceiling coving and en suite shower room with a walk-in cubicle, pedestal wash basin, WC, laminate flooring and ceiling coving.

There are two further bedrooms and a family bathroom, which comprises a shaped spa bath with power shower over, built-in vanity unit with storage, WC, heated towel rail, laminate flooring and ceiling coving.

Outside, the property is approached via raised gravel borders with shrubs and a block paved driveway providing off-road parking for several vehicles and leading to a garage with an up-and-over door. A gate leads to the enclosed rear garden, which has a shaped lawn with borders, block paved patio, large fish pond with gravel borders, tap and shed.

For more information or to arrange a viewing, call 01889 583377.

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Keep patio pots safe from frost

MOVE your patio plants around so that you can enjoy more easily the structure of permanent plants such as conifers, camellias and trees.

Pots that sit directly on paving slabs are more likely to suffer from poor drainage and frosts are more easily transferred from paving to make a frozen rootball. To improve drainage, lift pots off the ground, elevating the pot with decorative terracotta feet. If you have pots topped off with winter pansies and violas, these need pride of place as their happy faces continue to bloom.

After the wet weather of autumn, walls and paving in shaded areas may be showing green growth of moulds and algae. Now it's possible to scrub these growths off with soapy water and plenty of elbow grease, or simply use one application of Patio Magic which does a better job killing the growth and gives long-lasting effects.

Benefit

Some winter flowering shrubs will be coming into bloom as we head for the end of the year and will be on display at your local nursery or garden centre. Suitable for growing long term in pots are both Witch Hazel (Hamamelis) with spidery yellow or gold flowers that are highly perfumed and Sweet box (Sarcococca) with tiny white flowers that are equally scented.

Invest in these sort of potted shrubs and your patio or front door will benefit from great beauty and fascinating scents.

TOPICAL TIP

Move tender potted plants close to a south or west facing wall and wrap fig trees in fleece to give protection from the harshest frosts.

Suitable for growing long term in pots are Sweet Box (Sarcococca) with tiny white scented flowers

Continue to cut back herbaceous plants such as Michaelmas daisies (Aster)

Cone flowers like rudbeckia need cutting back as they die back

Don't let fallen leaves smother your plants

SHORT, dull days leading up to the end of the year can be blessed with some bright weather.

Gardeners take every opportunity on dry days to tidy up the garden and make headway in digging over bare soil and improving its structure.

DECORATIVE BEDS AND BORDERS

Collect fallen leaves that gather between rose bushes, shrubs and trees and especially those that are trying to smother low growing plants, such as aubretia, lewisia, sedum, thyme and violets. If autumn leaves are left on these plants for any length of time you can be sure that slugs and snails will ruin their foliage.

Instead of leaving these leaves where they fall, collect them up and store in empty compost bags for a year or more and you will have some very valuable leaf mould that can be dug into soil in future years to improve structure and feed millions of soil bacteria and beneficial insects.

Finish the planting of tulips in your flower border with some of the dwarf species such as Stresa (a red and yellow water-lily type) or West Point (a rich yellow lily-flowered type).

To protect the emerging leaves of tulips while they are still below ground it will pay to water the patch where these tulips are planted with a liquid slug killer such as SlugClear. When diluted in water in a watering it can be used to soak the soil where it kills all molluscs that are hiding below the surface.

Continue to cut back herbaceous plants such as Michaelmas daisies (Aster), cone flowers (Rudbeckia and Echinacea) and phlox as they die back. Compost all the plant material other than foliage that has been badly affected by mildew and dig around the roots, ensuring labels are still in place.

Winter is a good time to cut down unwanted trees and sapling as there is less potential to damage the rest of the flower garden. To ensure the stump doesn't spring back into life next spring it's always recommended to treat the cut surface of the stump as soon as possible after felling. There's no need to drill any holes – simply paint the cut surface and remaining bark thoroughly with a 10 per cent solution of Roundup Tree Stump and Rootkiller and the job's done.

It's time to give some protection to marginal plants that may struggle to survive bad winter weather. As many gardeners found in 2010's winter, marginal plants such as penstemons, bottle brush bush (Callistemon) and young ceanothus do not easily survive really cold spells when frosts are persistent and hard. To give extra protection to the roots of these plants add a 10-15cm (4-6in) mulch layer of any left-over compost from this year or fresh bags of Miracle-Gro Soil Improver.

TOPICAL TIP

Before painting fence panels it's a good idea to get rid any green mould and algae with a special treatment such as Deck & Fence Magic. Just one spray will give you visible results in 2 to 4 days and prevent re-growth for many months.

Callistemon (bottle brush bush) needs extra protection from the frost

Information and pictures from The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company

Now's the time for pruning in the fruit garden

IN the fruit garden it's time to prune blackberries and raspberries. Cut back to ground level all stems that have carried fruit from blackberries, summer raspberries and longanberries. On autumn fruiting raspberries wait until February before pruning all the canes back to ground level.

Established apple and pear trees do not need regular pruning to provide a good crop. Just cut back any new shoots that have grown this summer by a half and removing all dead, diseased and crossing branches. If your fruit trees are growing in the lawn it will pay dividends to remove the grass in a circle the size of the leaf canopy.

This will give you the ability to dig in some Miracle-Gro Slow Release Plant Food. You can use the general purpose one, but I prefer the Rose & Shrub product that is much richer in potash and will encourage more flowering and fruiting.

Scatter several handfuls of the plant food granules around the edge of your soil circle so the feeder roots that are positioned where the rain drips from the end of the branches can absorb the nutrients. Using a slow release plant food means that nutrients will only be released when the soil warms up and will continue to feed your fruit tree steadily through the six months of the growing season.

If you have a grape vine it is vital to prune them back in mid winter before the sap starts to rise or they will 'bleed' copiously.

Cut back the leader stem to ripened wood and each lateral stem to two buds.

● *It is recommended that you wear gloves when handling growing composts. Always read the label and use pesticides safely.*

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Converted barn lies in countryside

THE LAYOUT of an extensive property in a pleasant Staffordshire hamlet provides an ideal opportunity for buyers requiring equestrian facilities.

Cross Roads Farm at Hoar Cross, near Lichfield, is a superb barn conversion, set in the heart of lovely countryside, and now on the market at a price guide of £725,000 through the John German estate agency.

It lies in around six acres and includes a ménage constructed to a high specification adjacent to a block of four single stables and two foaling stables. Besides paddocks there are also attractive gardens, with a huge variety of ornamental trees and shrubs, flower beds, a kitchen garden, water feature and a stream forming one border.

Also featured outside are a toilet with a hand basin, a double garage housing two central heating boilers and a greenhouse.

The spacious interior, full of character, includes a reception hall and fitted cloakroom. The sitting room has a coal-effect electric fire in an attractive timber surround and cast iron inset. From here an archway leads to the equally charming dining room, with a coal-effect gas fire and timber and tiled surround.

There is a useful study and the breakfast kitchen boasts a matching range of oak-fronted units, a split-level cooker with an LP gas hob and oven. The L-shaped utility has further units.

Off an inner hall are three ground floor bedrooms, all with en suite facilities and upstairs are a further two bedrooms and a shower room, besides shelved wardrobes on the landing and access to the roof space.

Hoar Cross is handily placed for the A515 Lichfield to Ashbourne road, with easy access to both towns as well as Burton-upon-Trent, Derby, Stafford and Uttoxeter.

For further details contact John German on 01543 419121.

The garden at Cross Roads Farm, in Hoar Cross

The menage and stables at Cross Roads Farm

Cross Roads Farm, Hoar Cross, on the market with John German

Moving further afield – that's not a problem

A STRAIGHTFORWARD move down the road is worrying enough for most home movers, so it is no surprise that for many people the thought of emigrating abroad can send stress levels through the roof.

But reallymoving.com, the UK's leading provider of instant online quotes for moving services, has these tips to help ensure your overseas move runs as smoothly as possible.

It's vital to plan ahead when packing to move overseas

Plan well ahead

Overseas removals must be planned at least 12 weeks in advance, but ideally up to a year ahead. This will enable you to ensure your belongings, which may be travelling via different methods, will arrive when you need them.

Invite removal company to survey possessions

It is wise to contact several removal companies who specialise in difference types of overseas removals to find the right company for you. You should invite them to come to your home and do a survey of your possessions so they can discuss the best way to transport them.

Decide on transport methods

Belongings can be transported to your destination by air, road and sea, each of which has its own benefits. Air is the fastest, taking only a few days, but is also the most expensive. Transporting by road is more commonly used for European destinations, while sea freight generally takes several weeks but is the most cost effective option.

Decide whether to share container loads

Assuming you elect to send some belongings by sea freight, your possessions will be loaded into large secure steel containers which are relayed by a container ship to the nearest port. You can choose either to have your own containers, which will be more secure and reduce the potential for customs issues, or have your possessions grouped with those of others who are travelling the same route. This is cheaper, but it is does mean you cannot dictate timescales as easily.

Make an itemised list of inventory and value

It is a good idea to clearly label every single box with your name, the content and the destination, then make an inventory listing every item and the total value. This is will be useful when organising insurance and help ensure everything is accounted for.

Arrange insurance

Given the number of different hands your goods will pass through, it is wise to arrange a water-tight insurance policy. If your goods are going by sea then you may even find yourself having to pay a contribution towards the cost of salvaging the ship if it runs aground, even if your own goods are not damaged. A good insurance policy will protect you against such eventualities.

Organise visas, permits and licences

Make sure all your paperwork is in order, for example visas, work permits and residency permits. Don't forget to check whether your driver's licence is valid in your new country of residence.

Sort out your finances

You can keep your current account in the UK and switch it to one that is specifically designed for expats, which usually operate through offshore branches located in Jersey or the Isle of Man. Or you can open an account with a local branch in your new country.

Arrange vaccinations

Check with your doctor if you require any vaccinations and make sure you have them in plenty of time. You should also check what health services are available to you in your new country as healthcare systems differ hugely. It is sensible to ask the doctor for a copy of your medical records to take with you.

● For more information visit www.reallymoving.com

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AUCTION 8 DECEMBER
AT: ASTON VILLA FOOTBALL CLUB @ 11.00 A.M.

114 Lots

Sandwell · Birmingham City Council · Bournville Village Trust

Lot 1: 10 The Gardens, Pedmore Road, Edlington ... Residential Vacant
Lot 2: 7 Bell Lane, Northfield ... Commercial Vacant
Lot 3: 81 Aberdeen Street, Winson Green ... Residential Vacant
Lot 4: 256 Summer Lane, Hockley ... Commercial Vacant
Lot 5: Land r/o 37 Toll House Road, Lozells ... Land
Lot 6: Street 230-232 Hagley Road, Edgbaston ... Land
Lot 7: 76 Alcester Road, Moseley ... Residential Vacant
Lot 8: The Plains, 240 Alderstone Road, Allestree, Derbyshire ... Residential Vacant
Lot 9: 70 Compton Court, Leamington Spa ... Residential Investment
Lot 10: 183 Cannock Road, Wolverhampton ... Residential Vacant
Lot 11: 21 Thorn Road, Bournville ... Residential Vacant
Lot 12: The Iron Maiden, Wesley Street, Bilston ... Development Opportunity
Lot 13: 264 Chester Road, Castle Bromwich ... Commercial Investment
Lot 14: 40 Acton Road, Willenhall ... Residential Vacant
Lot 15: 701-705 Stratford Road, Sparkhill ... SOLD PRIOR ... Commercial Vacant
Lot 16: 84 Hanlon Road, Walsall ... Residential Vacant
Lot 17: Unit 2 Acte Park, West Bromwich ... Commercial Vacant
Lot 18: 28 Burton Crescent, Wolverhampton ... Residential Investment
Lot 19: 175 Prince of Wales Lane, Wardsbrook ... Residential Investment
Lot 20: 87 Sandon Road, Edgbaston ... Residential Vacant
Lot 21: The Freeholder Tavern, 63 St John Street, Dudley ... Development Opportunity
Lot 22: 85 High Street, Brierley Hill ... Commercial Vacant
Lot 23: The Oak Tree House, 37 Prospect Road, Moseley ... Residential Vacant
Lot 24: The Hill Tavern, 72 Watson Green Road, Dudley ... Development Opportunity
Lot 25: 304 Bridgnorth Road, Wolverhampton ... Commercial Vacant
Lot 26: 6 Moor Pool Avenue, Harborne ... Residential Vacant
Lot 27: 34 Bilbrey Road, Dudley ... Residential Vacant
Lot 28: 8 Elwell Road, Willenhall ... Residential Investment
Lot 29: Land off Eagle Close, Rookery Road ... Land
Lot 30: The Dog Lamp, Whittles Lane, Walsall ... Redevelopment Opportunity
Lot 31: Land at Harvest Road, Rookery Road ... Land
Lot 32: Land at the Junction of Harvest Road & The Avenue, Rookery Road ... Land
Lot 33: 382 Bakehouse Lane, Hall Green ... Residential Investment
Lot 34: 18 Erica Close, Selly Oak ... Residential Vacant
Lot 35: 81 Brierley, Beacon View Road, West Bromwich ... Residential Investment
Lot 36: Garages Adj. 321 Rookery Drive, Solihull ... Ground Rents & Garages
Lot 37: 9-26 Field Close, Stretton ... Ground Rents & Garages
Lot 38: Common Lane Industrial Estate, Reedicroft ... Commercial Vacant/Investment
Lot 39: 17 Serpentine Road, Selly Oak ... Residential Investment
Lot 40: 20 Walton Road, Wolverhampton ... Residential Vacant
Lot 41: 424-8 High Street, Cradley Heath ... Commercial Vacant
Lot 42: 18 Victoria Road, Stretford ... Residential Vacant
Lot 43: 20 Westpoint, Hermitage Road, Edgbaston ... Residential Investment
Lot 44: 11 Market Place, Wednesbury ... Commercial Part Vacant/Part Investment
Lot 45: Hanbidge Court, Wood Lane, Streetly ... Residential Investment
Lot 46: 52 Clifton Street, Wolverhampton ... Commercial Part Vacant/Part Investment
Lot 47: 182 Broadway Road, Wilson Green ... Development Opportunity
Lot 48: 32 Dunlish Road, Selly Oak ... Residential Vacant
Lot 49: 121 Court Lane, Erdington ... Residential Vacant
Lot 50: 11 De Montfort Court, Hill Street, Henley in Arden ... Residential Vacant
Lot 51: Former Delmonte Site, Jacquards Road, Tipton ... Development Opportunity
Lot 52: Land Adjacent 25 Albert Street, Dudley Heath ... Development Opportunity
Lot 53: Land Between 68 & 70 Gatebrooke Road, Wednesbury ... Development Opportunity
Lot 54: Land at 163-165 Halesowen Street, Rowley Regis ... Development Opportunity
Lot 55: 8 Bent Jervoise Street, West Bromwich ... Development Opportunity
Lot 56: 8 Bentmead Court Lea Avenue, Wednesbury ... Development Opportunity
Lot 57: 8 Bent Priory Road/Belmont Hill Road, Tipton ... Development Opportunity
Lot 58: 8 Bent 188-208 Toll End Road, Tipton ... Development Opportunity
Lot 59: 71 Dogpool Lane, Selly Park ... Residential Vacant
Lot 60: 13 Ray Street, Burslem Stoke on Trent ... Residential Vacant
Lot 61: 71 Benthorn Street, Fenton, Stoke on Trent ... Residential Vacant
Lot 62: 21 Trinity Road, Willenhall ... Residential Vacant
Lot 63: 38 Cape Hill, Smethwick ... Commercial Investment
Lot 64: 57 Alverton Park Road, Moseley ... Residential Vacant
Lot 65: 28 Berrywood Road, Wolverhampton ... Residential Vacant
Lot 66: 13 Randall Road, Willenhall ... Residential Vacant
Lot 67: 18 Colehill Road, Bloxwich ... Residential Vacant
Lot 68: 188 Wilton Lodge Road, Erdington ... Residential Investment
Lot 69: Premier House, Raffe Street, Smethwick ... Commercial Vacant
Lot 70: 19-21 Hawley Crescent, Solihull ... Commercial Vacant/Residential Investment
Lot 71: 8 Oversley House, Kinnerton Road, Alcester ... Residential Vacant
Lot 72: 11 Oversley House, Kinnerton Road, Alcester ... Residential Vacant
Lot 73: 214-224 Barr Street, Hockley ... Commercial Vacant
Lot 74: 40 Bexhill Green, Dudley ... Commercial Vacant
Lot 75: 101 Bennetshaw, Brookside, Telford ... Residential Vacant
Lot 76: 18 Bradley Street, Pensnett, Brierley Hill ... Residential Investment
Lot 77: 118 Probert Road, Oxley, Wolverhampton ... Residential Vacant
Lot 78: 182-182a Waterloo Road, Smethwick ... Commercial/Residential Investment
Lot 79: 83 St Peters Close, Charles Cross, Redditch ... Residential Vacant
Lot 80: 13 Bethnal Close, Smethwick ... Residential Vacant
Lot 81: 18 Laburnum Road, Bournville ... Residential Vacant
Lot 82: 8 Edgbaston Road East, Balsall Heath ... Residential Vacant
Lot 83: 25 Pale Street, Upper Gornal ... Residential Vacant
Lot 84: 8 Acorn Grove, Wordsley, Stourbridge ... Residential Vacant
Lot 85: 177 Wolverhampton Street, Dudley ... Commercial/Residential Investment
Lot 86: 25 Lightwood Hill, Smethwick ... Residential Vacant
Lot 87: 68 Tolum Road, Erdington ... Residential Vacant
Lot 88: 1 Glamorgan Close, Bilston ... Residential Vacant
Lot 89: 48 Eccleshall Way, Wolverhampton ... Residential Vacant
Lot 90: 7 Ivy House Lane, Oakley ... Residential Vacant
Lot 91: 44 Stewtsone Valley Road, Halesowen ... Residential Vacant
Lot 92: 84 The Parade, Cradley Heath ... Residential Vacant
Lot 93: 16 Taylor Road, Parkfield, Wolverhampton ... Residential Vacant
Lot 94: 185 Dotterills Lane, Ward End ... Residential Vacant
Lot 95: 203 Selly Oak Road, Bournville ... Residential Vacant
Lot 96: 47 Hartley Road, Kingswinford ... Residential Vacant
Lot 97: 58 Gordon Road, Harborne ... Residential Vacant
Lot 98: 88 Central Avenue, Bilston ... Residential Vacant
Lot 99: 133 Alvechurch Road, West Heath ... Residential Vacant
Lot 100: 272 Moseley Road, Highgate ... Commercial Vacant
Lot 101: 4 Hannah Road, Bilston ... SOLD PRIOR ... Residential Vacant
Lot 102: 17 Walker Street, Tipton ... Residential Vacant
Lot 104: 78 Links Road, Penn, Wolverhampton ... Residential Vacant
Lot 105: 43 Normanton Tower, Portfield Grove, Erdington ... Residential Vacant
Lot 106: 28 Eagle Crescent, Eccleshall, Staffs ... Residential Investment
Lot 107: The Barn, 4 & 5 Bonkey Green East, Stretford ... Residential Vacant
Lot 108: 102 Waterloo Road, Smethwick ... Commercial Vacant
Lot 109: 4 Douglas Road, Oakley ... Residential Vacant
Lot 110: 95 Hyde Road, Wednesfield ... Residential Vacant
Lot 111: 10 Smallfield Brakes, Pensnett, Brierley Hill ... Residential Vacant
Lot 112: 7 Hagley Gardens, Wolverhampton ... Residential Investment
Lot 113: 104 Holden Crescent, Walsall ... Residential Vacant
Lot 114: 88 Hayes Street, West Bromwich ... Residential Vacant
Lot 115: 18 Rimston Road, Alum Rock ... Residential Vacant

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Elgiva Croft, Chase Terrace

- Freehold Link Detached Bungalow
- Two bedrooms
- Lounge with Feature Fireplace
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Garage
- Sealed unit double glazing
- Gas radiator central heating
- Front garden with parking
- Enclosed rear garden

£ 129,950 - IN CHAIN

Ashwood Road, Burntwood

- Freehold Link Detached bungalow
- Split level
- Two bedrooms
- Lounge with feature fireplace
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Garage
- Sealed unit double glazing
- Gas radiator central heating
- Front garden with parking
- Enclosed rear garden

£ 129,950 - IN CHAIN

Poplar Avenue, Chasetown

- Ground floor flat
- Two bedrooms
- Entrance hall
- Lounge
- Inner hall
- Refitted kitchen
- Refitted bathroom
- Sealed unit double glazing
- Gas radiator central heating
- Enclosed garden

£79,950 - INTERNAL VIEWING HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

Willett Avenue, Chasetown

- Semi detached house
- Three bedrooms
- Lounge with feature fireplace
- Kitchen/diner
- Ground floor bathroom
- Family bathroom
- Gas radiator central heating
- Garage and driveway
- Rear garden
- Freehold

£ 85,000 VIEWING RECOMMENDED

Church Street, Chasetown

- Freehold detached dormer bungalow
- Three bedrooms
- Bed 1 with dressing area
- Living room with feature fireplace
- Study/Kitchen/diner
- Conservatory/Garden room
- Bathroom with separate shower
- Double garage, Ground floor/room
- Double glazing
- Gas central heating
- Brick paved Drive
- Gardens to front and rear

£ 229,950 - INTERNAL VIEWING RECOMMENDED

Lawnswood Avenue, Chasetown

- Freehold semi detached house
- Three bedrooms
- Lounge
- Extended kitchen with oven & hob
- Dining area
- Ground floor double glazed conservatory
- Refitted bathroom
- Gas radiator central heating
- Sealed unit double glazing
- Double width drive
- Enclosed rear garden

£ 149,950 VIEWING RECOMMENDED

Highfields Road, Chasetown

- Freehold detached bungalow
- Three bedrooms
- Lounge with feature fireplace
- Kitchen/diner
- Ground floor bathroom
- Garage and driveway
- Rear garden

£274,950 INTERNAL VIEWING RECOMMENDED

Oak Vale, High Street, Chasetown

- 4/5 bedroom detached house
- Four bedrooms
- Dressing room to bedroom 1 and 2
- Lounge, separate dining room
- Kitchen with appliances
- Utility, guest cloakroom
- Family bathroom with shower over bath
- Ensuite to bedroom 1
- Double glazing
- Gas radiator heating
- Garage, block paved drive
- Landscaped front & rear gardens
- NHBC guarantee

£325,000 OFFERS INVITED FOR QUICK COMPLETION

Ogley Hay Road, Burntwood

- Semi detached house close to open countryside
- Three bedrooms
- Lounge
- Separate dining room
- Fitted kitchen
- Refitted bathroom
- Gas radiator central heating
- Sealed unit double glazing
- Enclosed rear garden
- Front garden with driveway parking

£ 149,950

Keepers Close, Burntwood

- Freehold detached house
- Three bedrooms
- Lounge
- Dining room
- Kitchen
- Bay window
- Gas radiator central heating
- Sealed unit double glazing
- Garden to front and rear
- Integral garage

£ 149,950 - IN CHAIN

Griffin Close, Chase Terrace

- Freehold detached house
- Lounge
- Kitchen with oven & hob
- Bathroom
- Two bedrooms
- Sealed unit double glazing
- Gas radiator heating
- Garage
- Off road parking for several cars
- Enclosed rear garden
- Private

Reduced by £7,000 to £149,950 - IN CHAIN

Union Street, Chasetown

- Freehold detached house
- Three bedrooms
- Lounge/dining room
- Kitchen
- Bathroom/separate WC
- Sealed unit double glazing
- Gas radiator central heating
- Double width drive
- Garage
- Enclosed rear garden

£ 164,950 - IN CHAIN

Morlen Avenue, Burntwood

- Freehold detached house
- Three bedrooms
- Lounge/dining room
- Kitchen
- Conservatory
- Garage
- Gas central heating
- Sealed unit double glazing
- Enclosed rear garden

£ 167,950 VIEWING RECOMMENDED

Elmhurst Drive, Burntwood

- Four bedroom detached house
- Ground floor cloakroom
- Lounge
- Dining room
- Kitchen
- Conservatory
- Family bathroom
- Sealed unit double glazing
- Gas central heating
- Garage, garden to front & rear
- Sorry No DSS

£ 125 PCM

Silverdale Drive, Chase Terrace

- Modern ground floor apartment
- Two bedrooms
- Lounge/dining room
- Fitted kitchen with upgraded appliances
- Bathroom
- Communal entrance with intercom
- Sealed unit double glazing
- Gas central heating
- Parking space to the rear
- Sorry No Pets or DSS

£ 495 PCM

1 Bridge Cross Road, Chase Terrace, Burntwood WS7 2BU
Opening Times Monday to Friday 9.00am - 5.30pm Saturday 9.30am - 3.00pm

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AVAILABLE UNTIL 8PM 7 DAYS A WEEK

R&S PROPERTY SERVICES

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HUNTINGTON
Caravan Mixed

- Double Unit Park Home
- [illegible]
- Kitchen
- [illegible]
- Bathroom
- GCH
- Double Glazing
- Private Parking
- [illegible]

£34,995

TO LET
Hilton Lane, Shareshill

SEMI-DETACHED COTTAGE HAVING GAS CENTRAL HEATING AND DOUBLE GLAZING, TWO RECEPTION ROOMS, THREE BEDROOMS ALL WITH

EN-SUITE, DETACHED DOUBLE GARAGE, AMPLE OFF ROAD PARKING, COMPLETELY REFURBISHED

£1000.00 PER CALENDAR MONTH

HAWKS GREEN
The Firs

- Double Unit Park Home
- 5 Week Old
- Kitchen
- [illegible]
- Lounge
- [illegible]
- Bathroom
- Garden To Side
- Shared Off Road Parking
- GCH, DG
- [illegible]

£34,995

RUGELEY
Essex Drive

- Detached Bungalow
- GCH, DG
- Conservatory
- Kitchen
- Lounge
- Bedroom

- Lounge
- Modern Kitchen With Integrated Appliances
- Family Bathroom
- Two Bedrooms
- Garage, Ample Off Road Parking

£124,950

TO LET
Sankey Road, Cannock

- Semi Detached Property
- Hallway, Lounge
- Kitchen, Utility
- Three Bedrooms
- Bathroom / WC
- GCH, Double Glazed
- Off Road Parking
- Rear Garden

£525.00 PCM

HEATH HAYES
Michigan Close

- Detached Property
- Entrance Porch, Hallway
- Cloakroom, WC
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Lounge, Dining Room
- Four Bedrooms

- Ensuite, Family Bathroom
- GCH, Double Glazing
- Fore & Rear Gardens
- Garage & Driveway

£235,995

GREAT WYRLEY
Town View Road

- 1st Floor Apartment
- Hallway
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms

- Bathroom
- Economy 7 Heating
- DG
- Off Road Parking

£51,000

TO LET
Oakridge Drive Cheslyn Hay

- Terraced
- Lounge
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom
- GCH, DG
- Rear Garden
- Off Road Parking

£595.00 PCM

HEDNESFORD
The Orchard, Minster Court

- Semi Detached
- Ensuite Bathroom
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- Utility Room
- Conservatory To Rear
- Bedroom
- Bathroom
- GCH, DG
- Double Glazed
- Rear Garden
- Off Road Parking

£89,000

CHESLYN HAY
Station Street

- End Terraced
- Kitchen
- Dining Area
- Utility
- Playroom/Study
- Three Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- GCH, DG
- Conservatory To Rear
- Rear Garden
- Off Road Parking

£124,995

HEDNESFORD
Bell Road

- Semi Detached
- Entrance Hallway
- Lounge
- Kitchen/DG
- Landing
- 2 Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom
- GCH
- Part Double Glazing
- Off Road Parking

£110,000

HUNTINGTON
Caravan Mixed

- [illegible]
- Lounge
- [illegible]
- Bathroom
- GCH, DG
- Mixed Off Road Parking
- Conservatory
- Mixed Semi Detached Bungalow

£85,000

WEDGES MILLS
Hall Meadow

- Semi Detached
- Entrance Porch
- Hallway
- Lounge/Dining Room
- Kitchen/Utility
- Three Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom
- Double Glazing
- Rear Walled Garden
- GCH, Double Glazing

£ 89,995

CHADSMOOR
Johnson Road

- Semi Detached
- GCH
- Partial DG
- Entrance Hallway
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Utility Room
- Three Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- WC
- Rear Garden
- Off Road Parking

£94,950

CANNOCK
Moreton Court

- Ground Floor Flat
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Double Bedroom
- Bathroom
- Sole Use Of Hallway
- Double Glazing
- Electric Heating
- Allocated Parking

£55,000

HUNTINGTON
The Firs

- Double Unit
- Park Home
- Inner Lobby
- Kitchen
- Dining Room
- Lounge
- Two Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Family, Allocated Parking
- Mixed Wood Patio/Patio

£60,000

GREAT WYRLEY
Long Lane

- Semi Detached
- [illegible]
- [illegible]
- [illegible]

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BOW STREET
RUGELEY

£75,000

GORSE ROAD
BRERETON

£89,950

HORSEFAIR
RUGELEY

£95,000

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Property Address
8 Westalleer Avenue,
Rugeley, WS15 4EG.
We advise that an offer has been received for the above property in the sum of £92,000.
Any persons wishing to increase on this offer should notify the agents of their intent of the prior to exchange of contracts
C Residential, 28 Horsefair,
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PENNWOOD DRIVE
RUGELEY

£105,000

SPRINGHILL TERRACE
RUGELEY

£106,000

SPRINGFIELD ROAD
RUGELEY

£110,000

KELLY AVENUE
BRERETON

£116,000

LODGE ROAD
BRERETON

£140,000

AVONLEA GARDENS
ETCHINGHILL

£142,995

CHURCH STREET
RUGELEY

£145,000

LICHFIELD STREET
RUGELEY

£148,000

DELAMERE WAY
ETCHINGHILL

£149,995

PINE VIEW
ETCHINGHILL

£169,995

LOWER BIRCHES WAY
RUGELEY

£175,000

BEECHCLIFFE RISE
ETCHINGHILL

£199,995

LOWER BIRCHES WAY
RUGELEY

£209,995

OFFEHACRES
RUGELEY

£220,000

HORSECROFT
SUTTON MILL

£274,950

Horsefair, Rugeley, Staffs WS15 2EJ

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ARCH STREET
RUGELEY

£330 pcm

TRURO CLOSE
RUGELEY

£400 pcm

NORWOOD HOUSE
ETCHINGHILL

£435 pcm

ANSON MEWS
RUGELEY

£465 pcm

ARCH STREET
RUGELEY

£470 pcm

EATON PARK
RUGELEY

£475 pcm

NORWOOD HOUSE
ETCHINGHILL

£475 pcm

BRERETON MEWS
BRERETON

£475 pcm

EATON PARK
RUGELEY

£475 pcm

SUNBEAM DRIVE
GREAT WYRLEY

£499 pcm

HOWELL MEWS
RUGELEY

£499 pcm

BOWER LANE
RUGELEY

£580 pcm

WHARF ROAD
RUGELEY

£499 pcm

PYE GREEN ROAD
CANNOCK

£515 pcm

JOSEPH DIX DRIVE
RUGELEY

£560 pcm

WATSON CLOSE
RUGELEY

£565 pcm

WALNUT COURT
BRERETON

£565 pcm

BOWER LANE
RUGELEY

£570 pcm

PARK HALL CLOSE
RUGELEY

£595 pcm

DAXON DRIVE
ETCHINGHILL

£595 pcm

EATON DRIVE
RUGELEY

£800 pcm

WESTBUTTS ROAD
ETCHINGHILL

£950 pcm

Horsefair, Rugeley, Staffs WS15 2EJ

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Bairstow eves

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Gorsey Lane, Great Wyrley

£190,000 NEW PRICE

- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Extended Bathroom With Separate Shower
- Double Glazing And Central Heating
- Enclosed Rear Garden

- Double Aspect Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen

Laurel Drive, Hednesford

Offers over £120,000 NEW PRICE

- Double Glazing And Central Heating
- Three Bedrooms
- Spacious Through Lounge
- Fitted Dining Kitchen
- Conservatory
- Fitted Family Bathroom
- Garage And Driveway

Greenheath Road, Hednesford

Offers over £190,000 NEW PRICE

- Totally Improved Three Bedroom End Detached Traditional Home
- Enclosed Rear Garden With Workshop And Storage
- Large Family Bathroom With Separate Shower
- Spacious Lounge
- Double Glazing And Central Heating
- Off Road Parking For Several Vehicles

Chequers Court, Norton Canes

£120,000

- Two Bedroom End Terrace Property
- Lounge With Feature Fireplace
- Fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom With Shower Over Bath
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Enclosed Rear Garden
- Off Road Parking

St Johns Road, Cannock

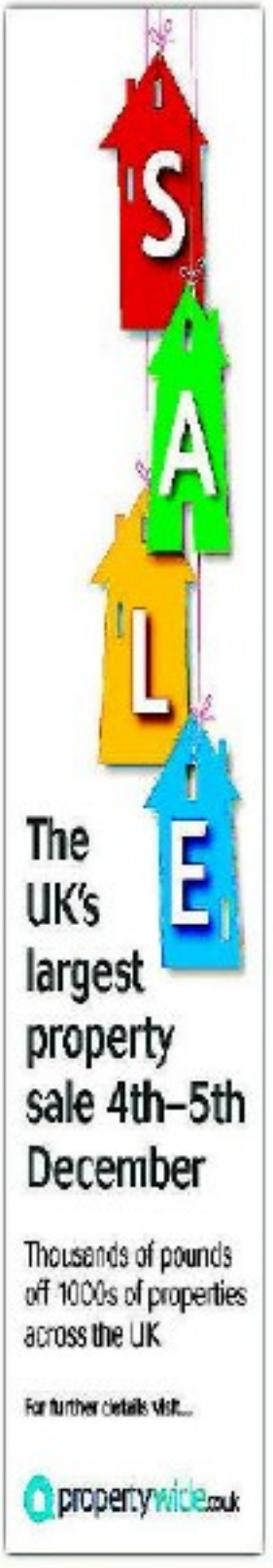
Offers over £90,000

- Three Bedroom Mid Terrace House
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing

Coldtree Road

£145,000 NEW

- Refitted Dining Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms
- Refitted Bathroom With Separate Shower Cubicle
- Impressive Outside Games Room With Gazebo
- Driveway Providing Multiple Off Road Parking
- Double Glazing And Central Heating


SALE
The UK's largest property sale 4th–5th December
Thousands of pounds off 1000s of properties across the UK
For further details visit...
propertywide.co.uk

Byron Place, Rugeley

£80,000

- Three Bedroom Semi Detached House
- Dual Aspect Lounge/Diner
- Kitchen
- First Floor Bathroom, Offroad Parking To Rear
- Further Communal Parking
- Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating

Craig Court, Heath Hayes

£59,000 NEW

- Ground Floor Lounge/Diner
- Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms

Wrights Avenue, Cannock

£124,000 NEW PRICE

- Three Bedroom Semi Detached Home
- Lounge/Diner
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Off Road Parking
- Front And Rear Gardens

Bairstow eves

Countrywide

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cannock@bairstowevescountrywide.co.uk

Burnswood Close, Cannock

£280,000 NEW PRICE

Mountside Street, Hednesford

£130,000 NEW PRICE

- A Deceptive Dormer Bungalow
- Four Bedrooms
- Separate Lounge & Dining Room
- Fitted Kitchen
- Double Glazing & Central Heating (where specified)
- No Upward Chain

St George Drive, Rawnsley

Offers Over £140,000 NEW PRICE

Hatherton Road, Cannock

£250,000 NEW

- A Deceptively Spacious Detached Family Home
- Two Reception Rooms
- Four Bedrooms
- Two Ensuite Bathrooms
- Fitted Family Bathroom
- Deceptive Rear Garden
- Driveway And Garage

SALE
The UK's largest property sale 4th–5th December
Thousands of pounds off 1000s of properties across the UK
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The Hollies, Cheslyn Hay

£250,000 NEW

- Immaculate Condition Six Bedroom Detached Home
- Ground WC & Utility Area
- Breakfast Kitchen & Family Room
- Master Bedroom with Dressing Room
- Two En Suite Shower Rooms
- Rear Garden & Double Garage

Uxbridge Street, Hednesford

Offers over £125,000 NEW PRICE

Andover Place, Cannock

OIEO £90,000 NEW PRICE

- Three bedroom End Terraced Home
- Sturdy Breakfast Kitchen & Lounge/Diner
- Ideal starter purchase
- Enclosed Mature Rear Garden
- Four Rear Bedrooms

St Johns Road, Cannock

£82,500 NEW PRICE

Hampton Green, Cannock

Bairstow eves

Countrywide

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cannock@bairstowevescountrywide.co.uk

Greenacres, Rugeley

Offers over £210,000 — NEW PRICE

Stoney Lea Road, Cannock

£210,000 — NEW PRICE

- Detached family home
- Four bedrooms
- Through lounge diner
- Breakfast kitchen
- Integral garage with offroad parking

Scotia Road, Cannock

Offers Over £110,000 — NEW PRICE

Lansbury Drive, Cannock

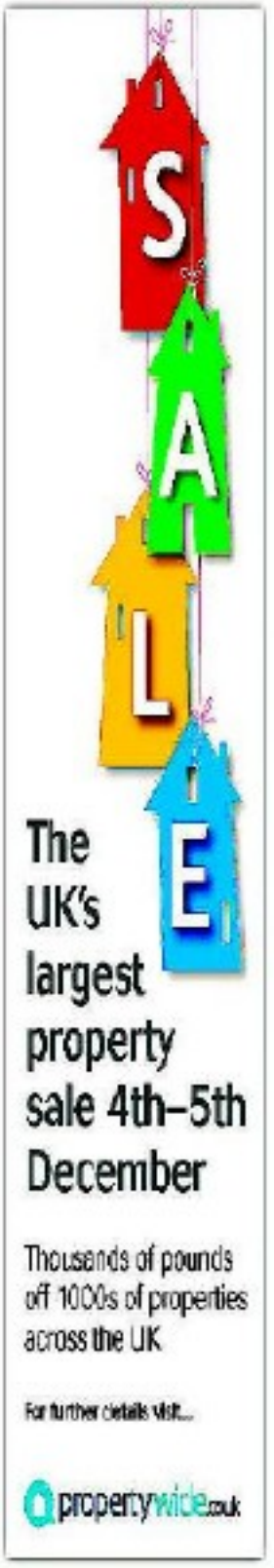
£100,000 — NEW PRICE

- Three bedroom semi detached
- Good decorative order
- Lounge diner feature fireplace
- Offroad parking for 2 to 3 cars
- Viewing essential

Cranmer Close, Cheslyn Hay

Offers over £330,000 — NEW PRICE

- A Well Presented Detached House
- Four Bedrooms, Master with En-suite
- Separate Lounge & Dining Room
- Well Appointed Modern Kitchen
- Double Glazing & Central Heating (where specified)
- Off-road for Two Cars with Side Access


SALE
The UK's largest property sale 4th–5th December
Thousands of pounds off 1000s of properties across the UK
For further details visit...
propertywide.co.uk

Sweetbriar Way, Heath Hayes

£210,000 — NEW PRICE

- A Detached Property
- Four Bedrooms Master With En Suite
- Lounge, Dining Room & Conservatory
- Garage Converted Study
- Corner Plot
- Double Glazing & Central Heating (where specified)

Greenwood Park, Hednesford

£140,000 — NEW PRICE

- A Semi Detached House
- Two Bedrooms
- Separate Lounge/Dining Room
- Kitchen & Utility Room
- Driveway & Garage Parking
- Double Glazing & Central Heating (where specified)

School Lane, Coven

Over £62,000 — NEW PRICE

- A Mobile Home
- Two Bedrooms
- Lounge & Kitchen
- Rear Garden Patio
- Allocated Off Road Parking
- Double Glazing & Storage Heating (where specified)

Moss Street, Cannock

£110,000 — NEW PRICE

- A Semi Detached Property
- Two Bedrooms
- Lounge & Conservatory
- Kitchen
- Integral Garage
- Double Glazing & Central Heating (where specified)

Cannock Office
01543 572251

DIXONS
Estate Agents

DoingMore...

39 Wilshire Ave, Cannock, WS11 5JE

PUBLIC NOTICE

We are acting for the mortgagee and have received an offer of £60,000 on the above property. Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before a hearing at Cannock on 10th June 2010

Woodford End, Chadsmoor

£30,000 NEW INSTRUCTION

50 % SHARED OWNERSHIP

Ground floor maisonette comprising of entrance, kitchen, shower room off rear patio and benefits from night storage heating

Ainsworth House, Cannock:

£95,000

Three bedroom duplex flat with no upward chain, comprising: kitchen, lounge diner, bathroom, under floor heating and night storage heating

Apple Walk, Heath Hayes

£100,000

A back to back house comprising refitted kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. Benefiting from double glazing, garden and allocated parking.

Rowley Close, Hednesford

£105,000 REVISED PRICE

Three bedroom semi detached with large driveway and rear garage comprises: kitchen/diner, lounge, conservatory, utility/wc, bathroom, rear garden & driveway

Lumsbury Drive, Cannock:

£105,000 NEW INSTRUCTION

Three bedroom semi detached house offering lounge/diner, kitchen/diner and first floor bathroom. There is a carriage drive, rear garden and off road parking. Double glazing and central heating

Cannock Road, Chadsmoor

£108,000

Semi detached house comprising lounge, dining room, refitted kitchen, refitted bathroom, three bedrooms, off road parking, central heating and double glazing

Trent Road, Cannock:

£108,000 NEW INSTRUCTION

Three bedroom semi detached comprising lounge, kitchen/dining room, bathroom, enclosed rear garden and off road parking. Central heating and double glazing

Brookvale Lane, Great Wyrley

£110,000 NEW PRICE

Ideal first time buyer opportunity two bedroom end terrace house with recently refitted kitchen, large lounge, shower room and well maintained gardens to front and rear, off road parking to rear

Walsall Road, Norton Canes

£115,000 NEW PRICE

An extended semi detached house comprising: lounge, diner, kitchen, bathroom, two bedrooms, loft room, rear garage, front and rear gardens.

Oxford Road, Cannock:

£115,000 REVISED PRICE

Well presented semi detached property comprises of lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom, garden, off road parking and garage. No upward chain

Bell Road, Hednesford

£120,000 NEW PRICE

Refurbished end terraced property on corner plot with refitted kitchen and bathroom, lounge, three bedrooms, detached garage and double glazing.

Van Gogh Close, Cannock:

£120,000 NEW INSTRUCTION

Well presented end terrace property on popular Heath Hayes estate. The property comprises: lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms and family bathroom. Front and rear gardens with driveway to side.

Fraser Rise, Cannock:

£122,000 NEW INSTRUCTION

Viewing recommended on this modern semi detached house on Fraser Rise. The property comprises: kitchen, lounge, two bedrooms, bathroom, garden to rear & driveway to side.

Heath Jerome, Cannock:

£125,000 NEW INSTRUCTION

Traditional two bedroom semi detached property comprising lounge, kitchen, bathroom, driveway providing off road parking, rear garden and benefiting from central heating, double glazing and new panel work.

Bridgen Road, Norton Canes

£135,000 NEW INSTRUCTION

Semi detached property comprises lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility room, three bedrooms and family bathroom. Rear garden and driveway to the front

Pye Green Road, Hednesford

£137,000 REVISED PRICE

Well presented three bedroom semi detached comprises dining room, lounge, kitchen and bathroom to first floor, large rear garden and front garden with driveway. No upward chain

Pilliton Drive, Huntington

£145,000 NEW INSTRUCTION

Well presented three bedroom semi detached property. The property comprises: lounge, kitchen, conservatory and bathroom. Low maintenance gardens with driveway and garage.

Longshaw Drive, Heath Hayes

£150,000 NEW INSTRUCTION

A semi detached comprises: lounge, kitchen, conservatory, three/four rooms and family bathroom. Rear garden and block paved driveway to front and side.

Greenwood Park, Hednesford

£150,000 NEW INSTRUCTION

Detached house offers accommodation that would suit family or small layout. Lounge, dining room, conservatory, kitchen, three bedrooms, shower room, driveway, garage and rear garden.

Legion Close, Norton Canes

£152,000 NEW PRICE

Well presented detached bungalow in cul-de-sac location comprising lounge, kitchen, bathroom, two bedrooms, front and rear garden, driveway and garage.

Stephenson Way, Hednesford

£165,000 NEW INSTRUCTION

A detached property comprising: guest wc, lounge, kitchen/diner, en-suite, three bedrooms, bathroom, rear garden, detached garage and driveway. No chain

Grosvenor Drive, Heath Hayes

£175,000 REVISED PRICE

A three storey modern comprises: kitchen, guest wc, lounge/diner, conservatory, three bedrooms, bathroom, ensuite, driveway and garage, rear garden

Grosvenor Way, Cannock

£190,000 NEW PRICE

Detached three storey townhouse comprising kitchen, lounge/diner, guest wc, four bedrooms, en suite, bathroom, garage, garden, double glazing, central heating.

Barn Way, Wimblebury

£208,000 NEW PRICE

A detached comprising guest wc, lounge, dining room, kitchen, ensuite, four bedrooms, bathroom, driveway, garage, front and rear landscaped gardens

Station Road, Great Wyrley

£245,000

Detached three bedroomed house comprising lounge/dining room, kitchen, guest wc and family bathroom. Rear garden and block paved front driveway offering off road parking

The Saplings, Pentridge

£245,000 NEW INSTRUCTION

Detached house comprises of lounge/dining room, kitchen, guest wc, four bedrooms, bathroom. Front and Rear gardens, carport and single garage. No chain

Longford Road, Cannock

£260,000

Detached two bedroom bungalow in popular area close to Cannock, comprising: lounge, kitchen/diner, bathroom, driveway, and garden to front and rear.

Barnswood Close, Cannock

£270,000

Dormer style bungalow offering: lounge, study, kitchen/dining area, four bedrooms, bathroom, shower room, rear garden and driveway, central heating and double glazing

Greenord, Walsall Wood Road

£290,000

Three bedroom detached bungalow comprising guest wc, lounge/diner, second lounge, kitchen, utility room, bathroom, detached garage, off road parking, front and rear gardens.

Ombudsman Scheme

OFT Approved

www.dixonsestateagents.co.uk

NORTON CANES
KNIGHTS COURT

£415 pcm Sorry No DSS

HEDNESFORD
SUNLEY DRIVE

£695 pcm Sorry No DSS

CANNOCK
OLD PENKRIDGE MEWS

£495 pcm Sorry No DSS

WIMBLEBURY
SWEETBRIAR WAY

£780 pcm Sorry No DSS

HEATH HAYES
SIDON HILL WAY

£800 pcm Sorry No DSS

HUNTINGTON
BILBERRY CRESCENT

£550 pcm Sorry No DSS

WIMBLEBURY
NELSON DRIVE

£650 pcm Sorry No DSS

CANNOCK
CAVANS CLOSE

£450 pcm Sorry No DSS

WIMBLEBURY
TRAFALGAR HOUSE

£695 pcm Sorry No DSS

GREAT WYRLEY
SUNBEAM DRIVE

£450 pcm Sorry No DSS

HEATH HAYES
ACORN CLOSE

- Unfurnished two bedroom house
- Hallway
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Two bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Heating
- Parking

£895 pcm Sorry No DSS

To Let
Webbs
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ARLA
153 Avon Road Cannock WS11 1LF
Opening Times:
Mon-Fri 9.00am-5.00pm Sat 9.00am-2.00pm
CANNOCK'S N°1 CHOICE FOR LETTINGS

RAWNSLEY
CHETWYND PARK

- Unfurnished two/three storey mid-terraced
- Ensuite cloakroom to rear
- Lounge, dining area
- Fitted kitchen
- Conservatory
- Two bedrooms, bathroom
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Parking
- Gardens

£495 pcm Sorry No DSS

HEATH HAYES
HELIGAN PLACE

- Unfurnished two/three storey house
- Lounge
- Fitted kitchen
- Two bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Parking

£470 pcm Sorry No DSS

HEATH HAYES
ALMOND CLOSE

- Unfurnished first floor flat
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- One bedroom
- Bathroom
- Storage/Heating
- Allocated parking

£590 pcm Sorry No DSS

HUNTINGTON
BRACKEN ROAD

£500 pcm Sorry No DSS

HEDNESFORD
MOUNT STREET

£650 pcm Sorry No DSS

CANNOCK
ASCOT DRIVE

£585 pcm Sorry No DSS

CANNOCK
DEVON GREEN

£420 pcm Sorry No DSS

NORTON CANES
BUTTS LANE

£1100 pcm Sorry No DSS

CANNOCK
PENKRIDGE COURT

£525 pcm Sorry No DSS

HEDNESFORD
PLANTATION ROAD

£695 pcm Sorry No DSS

HEATH HAYES
CANNOCK ROAD

£500 pcm Sorry No DSS

GREAT WYRLEY
PENNYCOMPEL, TOWER VIEW ROAD

£695 pcm Sorry No DSS

WE URGENTLY REQUIRE 2/3 BEDROOM PROPERTIES TO REPLENISH OUR STOCKS

CANNOCK
KENILWORTH COURT

£650 pcm Sorry No DSS

GREAT WYRLEY
WALSALL ROAD

£600 pcm Sorry No DSS

HEDNESFORD
BROADHURST GREEN

£495 pcm Sorry No DSS

HEDNESFORD
HAYCROFT CLOSE

£595 pcm Sorry No DSS

WIMBLEBURY
FREMANTLE DRIVE

£600 pcm Sorry No DSS

Vision
Sales & Lettings

Upper Brook Street
Rugeley

£80,000-£85,000

Lower Lodge Caravan Park
Rugeley

£72,000

Brunswood Lane
Rugeley

£84,950

Goose Road
Rugeley

£91,000

Park View Terrace
Rugeley

£90,000

Wheatsheaf Place
Rugeley

£99,000

The Laurels
Rugeley

£104,950

Aske Crescent
Rugeley

£115,000

Eaton Drive
Rugeley

- Four Bedrooms
- Ensuite Cloakroom
- Kitchen
- Lounge
- Ensuite
- Family Bathroom
- Allocated Parking for 2 Vehicles
- Front & Rear Gardens

£119,000

Brunswood Lane
Rugeley

£124,950

Lower Lodge Park
Acadeagle

£12,450

Ravensdale Road
Rugeley

£12,000

Hillmoor Avenue
Acadeagle

£120,950

Hunnefields
Rugeley

£130,000

Eaton Drive
Rugeley

£134,950

Old Fellow Bowls, Cannock

£150,950

Thorn Close
Rugeley

£151,950

Oldgrovell Lane
Upper Longdon

£203,000

Wentworth Close
Acadeagle

£220,000

Chevins Road
Rugeley

£223,000

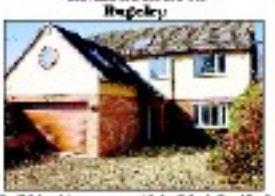
Lower Mellow Way
Rugeley

£22,500

Anson Street
Rugeley

£27,950

Rectorial Road
Rugeley



£200,950

High Chase Rise
Little Haywood

£230,000

Eaton Drive
Rugeley

£215,000

OFT Approved Code

Property Ombudsman

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5 HEATHER VALLEY, HEDNESFORD

£349,950 FREEHOLD

SHIRE CLOSE, CANNOCK

9 HATHERTON CROFT, CANNOCK

£310,000 FREEHOLD

£99,950

1 SKIPTON PLACE, CANNOCK

$219,950 FREEHOLD

$41,000 for 50% share

$129,950 FREEHOLD

38 CANNOCK ROAD, BLOXWICH

$199,950 FREEHOLD

$122,950 FREEHOLD

HIGHFIELDS GARDENS

Phase 1

NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION

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Plot 17	The Richmond	4 Bedrooms	£349,950	FREEHOLD	Available
Plot 19	The York	4 Bedrooms	£349,950	FREEHOLD	Available
Plot 20	The Richmond	4 Bedrooms	£349,950	FREEHOLD	Available
Plot 21	The Richmond	4 Bedrooms	£349,950	FREEHOLD	Available
Plot 22	The Richmond	4 Bedrooms	£349,950	FREEHOLD	Available

WAKEFIELDS, 1 SANDY LANE, BREWOOD

£399,950 FREEHOLD

NEW PRICE

21 BANBURY ROAD, CANNOCK

$116,950 FREEHOLD

11 LARCH DALE CLOSE, CANNOCK

$119,950 FREEHOLD

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$209,950 FREEHOLD

NO CHAIN

$203,000 FREEHOLD

$51,000 FOR 50% SHARE

86 OLD PENKRIDGE ROAD, CANNOCK

£345,000 FREEHOLD

$225,000 FREEHOLD

PART EXCHANGE CONSIDERED

CONISBROUGH HOUSE, THE LANE, COPPENALL

$1,250,000 FREEHOLD

$125,000 FREEHOLD

$80,950 FREEHOLD

$179,950 FREEHOLD

103 HATHERTON ROAD, CANNOCK

£395,000 FREEHOLD

$249,950 FREEHOLD

$125,000 FREEHOLD

$129,950 FREEHOLD

100% VALUATION PART EXCHANGE AVAILABLE

MARTIN GROVE, HILTON LANE, GREAT WYRLEY

(Rear of 34 Hilton Lane)

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Open Viewings by Appointment
01922 410600

Plot 1	Florida House	5 Beds	SOLD
Plot 2	Winchester House	5 Beds	SOLD
Plot 3	Somerset House	5 Beds	$324,995 Freehold
Plot 4	Grosvenor House	5 Beds	SOLD
Plot 5	Dorchester House	5 Beds	SOLD
Plot 6	The Derby	4 Beds	SOLD

Full details is available from Agents, Cannock Office

7 HIGHFIELDS PARK, CHESLYN HAY

£415,000 FREEHOLD

NEW PRICE

1 YORK ROAD, CANNOCK

$99,950 FREEHOLD

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GREAT WYRLEY
STATION ROAD
£690 PCM

CLAYHANGER
Clyburdale Road
£750 Pcm

CHASETOWN
Elmhurst Drive
- 4 Bedroom Detached
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Off road parking for 3 cars
- Sorry NO DHSS

£750 Pcm

BURNTWOOD
Chase Road
- 2 Bedroom Semi with Off Road Parking
- Ground Floor Cloakroom & Luxury Bathroom
- Dining Room & Study
- Sorry NO DHSS

£625 Pcm

CHADSMOOR
Bath Road
£540 Pcm

HUNTINGTON
Pingviss Grove
£600 Pcm

GREAT WYRLEY
Walsall Road
£595 Pcm

RUSHALL
Edinburgh Drive
£595 Pcm

WEDGES MILLS
Wolverhampton Road
£550 Pcm

ALDRIDGE
THE BRIARS
£525 PCM

HEDNESFORD
Hilldale Close
£525 Pcm

BROWNHILLS
LAPWING CLOSE
£490 PCM

WEDGES MILLS
The Meadows
£495 Pcm

SHELFIELD
Woodlands Court
£475 Pcm

ALDRIDGE
LINGMORE GROVE
- 2 bed apartment
- Gas central heating
- Off road parking
- NO DHSS

£495 PCM

WALSALL WOOD
FRIARY COURT
£425 PCM

ALDRIDGE
Ladywood Court
- A well presented one bedroom flat
- Gas central heating & Double glazing
- Off Road Parking
- SORRY NO DHSS

£425 Pcm

CHASE TERRACE
Penhill Road
£425 Pcm

CHASETOWN
NEWGATE STREET
£490 PCM

HEATH HAYES
APPLE WALK
£490 PCM

CANNOCK
MONTROSE CLOSE
£450 PCM

SHELFIELD
HAYLING COURT
£450 PCM

HEATH HAYES
Heinsford Road
£420Pcm

HEDNESFORD
MARKET STREET
£350 PCM

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- Sutton Coldfield
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- Walsall

ESTATE AGENCY of the YEAR

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Cannock
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Goodchilds
Estate Agents & Lettings

NORTON CANES
BUTTS LANE
£1100 PCM

GREAT WYRLEY
STATION ROAD
£460 PCM

CHASETOWN
Bulmers Drive
£750 Pcm

NORTON CANES
Butts Close
£725 Pcm

HIGH HEATH
Radford Drive
£550 Pcm

CHESLYN HAY
Cottefoot View
£695 Pcm

Empty property?
Thinking of Selling or Letting your property?
6 months rent guarantee
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HEATH HAYES
Grouse Way
£875 Pcm

NORTON CANES
Bloomer Road
£600 Pcm

NEW

BROWNHILLS
Hednesford Road
£595 Pcm

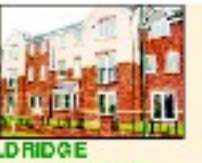
NEW

CHASE TERRACE
Rugeley Road
£575 Pcm

NEW

HUNTINGTON
Progress Grove
£550 Pcm

ALDRIDGE
THE PADDOCKS
£525 PCM



ALDRIDGE
BRICKYARD COURT
£525 PCM

CLAYHANGER
Dunnerdale Road
£525 Pcm

HEATH HAYES
PHEASANT WAY
£495 PCM

BROWNHILLS
LAPWING CLOSE
£495 PCM

HEDNESFORD
Sheraton Close
£495 Pcm

BROWNHILLS
MOORHEN CLOSE
£475 PCM

HEDNESFORD
Hyatts Street
£575 Pcm

NORTON CANES
Norton East Road
£575 Pcm

NEW

CANNOCK
VALLEY ROAD
• 1 bed 1st floor flat
• Double glazed
• Rear garden
• DHSS accepted
£425 PCM

GREAT WYRLEY
Tower View Road
£395 Pcm

SHELFIELD
Maple House
£275 Pcm

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• Walsall

LEDSDALE DRIVE, CANNOCK

A well presented semi detached bungalow. The accommodation comprises entrance hall, lounge, refitted kitchen, recently fitted double bedroom and shower room. With gas central heating, double glazing, driveway parking and gardens.

OIRO £125,000

WARD ROAD, HEDNESFORD

£159,950 No Chain

chase independent

01543 504234

LOW STREET, CHESLYN HAY

£149,950 No Chain

WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD, CANNOCK

A well presented semi detached house comprising lounge, dining room, refitted kitchen, refitted guest wc, utility, two bedrooms, loft room, refitted bathroom, gas central heating, double glazing and rear garden.

£135,995

CANNOCK ROAD, HEATH HAYES

A spacious extended detached house with good size rear garden and CH/DG. The accommodation comprises entrance porch, hallway, lounge, kitchen/dining, conservatory, two bedrooms, bathroom, gas central heating, double glazing, front and rear gardens, driveway and garage.

£155,000 No Chain

JOHNSON ROAD, CANNOCK

A very well presented extended and refurbished two and three bedroom semi detached house with views of countryside to rear comprising entrance hall, lounge, dining room, refitted breakfast kitchen, refitted utility & guest WC, playroom/office, three bedrooms, bathroom, gas central heating, double glazing, rear garden, garage, and block paved driveway

£141,950

TAVISTOCK AVENUE, CANNOCK

A well presented semi detached house, recently improved by the current owners comprising, entrance hall, lounge, dining room, breakfast kitchen and refitted bathroom. With gas central heating, majority double glazing, front & rear gardens, driveway and garage.

£174,995 No Chain

SHELFORD LANE, HEDNESFORD

A semi detached house in popular residential area, comprising, entrance hall, lounge, breakfast kitchen, conservatory, three bedrooms and bathroom. With gas central heating, double glazing, front & rear gardens, driveway and garage.

£139,995

BIRCH GROVE, HEATH HAYES

A well presented and refurbished three bedroom semi detached house comprising entrance hall, lounge, refitted kitchen/diner, refitted bathroom/WC, gas central heating, double glazing, rear garden, garage and ample driveway.

£144,950

RYE GRASS ROAD, CANNOCK

£134,995

BIRCH GROVE, HEATH HAYES

£139,000 NO CHAIN

YEW TREE AVENUE, CANNOCK WOOD

£139,950

LIME CLOSE, CHURCH EATON

£210,000

CHADWICK CLOSE, HEDNESFORD

Offers in excess of £139,995

WINDSOR GARDENS CLOSE, HEATH HAYES

£130,000

ARTHUR STREET, CANNOCK

£110,000

BRAMPTON DRIVE, HEATH HAYES

£125,000

STEDDESDON VIEW, HEDNESFORD

£174,995 No Chain

HEDNESFORD HILL ROAD, CHASE TERRACE

£110,000 No Chain

WOODFIELD CLOSE, HEDNESFORD

£179,995 No Chain

HILL STREET, HEDNESFORD

£155,000

VAUXHALL ROAD, CHURCH EATON

£149,950

VAUXHALL ROAD, CHURCH EATON

£149,995

THE CROFT, CHESLYN HAY

£164,995 No Chain

HEDNESFORD ROAD, CANNOCK

£109,950

NEWBURY CLOSE, HEDNESFORD

£129,950

ALTON DRIVE, CANNOCK

£169,950 No Chain

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Chase Independent

Independent Estate & Letting Agents

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TEL: 01889 582233

SALES

Oakfield Grove, Etchinhill

- Five Bedrooms
- Executive Detached
- Private Road Location
- Three Reception Rooms
- Stunning Kitchen
- Generous Plot
- Double Garage & Driveway
- Viewing Essential

£410,000

Weeford Road, Etchinhill, Rugeley

- Four Bed Detached
- Sizeable Plot
- Popular Location
- Four Reception Rooms
- Dressing Area & En-suite to Master
- Attractive Rear Garden
- Double Garage
- Viewing is Essential

£285,000

Horse Croft, Shirley Mill

- Detached House
- Four Bedrooms
- Master With En-suite
- Lounge, Dining Room
- Study & Conservatory
- Executive Kitchen
- In Need Of Modernisation
- Double Garage

£274,950

Portcomic Lane, Rugeley

- Four Double Bedrooms
- Detached House
- Corner Plot
- Detached Garage & Workshop
- Three Reception Rooms
- Popular Location
- Ideal Family Home
- No Chain

£220,000

Chestnut Grove, Brereton, Rugeley

- Four Bedrooms
- Spacious Lounge
- Kitchen Diner
- Master with En-suite
- New Build
- Carpets & Turf Included
- Private Cul-de-Sac Location
- Show home open all hours

£219,950

Elizabethan Way, Rugeley

- Four Bedrooms
- Detached House
- Show Home Standard
- DG & GCH
- Refitted Kitchen & Bathroom
- Pleasant Garden
- Garage & Driveway
- Must Be Viewed

£189,995

Orchard Close, Handsacre, Rugeley

- Link Detached House
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Cul-de-sac Position
- Spacious Lounge
- Separate Dining Room
- Delightful Gardens
- Ample Off Road Parking

£167,000

Beaconsfield Drive, Etchinhill, Rugeley

- Link Detached House
- Three Bedrooms
- Well Presented
- Cul-de-sac Position
- Conservatory
- Garage & Driveway
- Low Maintenance Garden
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The new Twingo earns its stripes

JUST months after launching Gordini versions of the Renaultsport Twingo and Clio, Renault is now poised to release an even more affordable, twin-striped version of its smallest model, Twingo, priced at £11,395.

The new Twingo Gordini 100, powered by the 1.2 TCe (Turbo Control Efficiency) petrol engine, is aimed squarely at customers looking for good handling and affordable running costs, wrapped up in a chic and sporty three-door package.

The appeal of the Gordini versions of Twingo and Clio Renaultsport to a younger audience has already surpassed expectations, with sales of both models having risen significantly.

So much so that, since their arrival across Europe, the 'halo' version of the Twingo now accounts for two-thirds of sales and one-third in the case of Clio.

Renault is now aiming to emulate the runaway success of its 'French flair' models with its latest arrival, which slots into the range above Dynamique, in place of the former GT.

The newcomer is instantly recognisable as a Gordini, through its trademark twin racing stripes with subtle 'G' badging across the bonnet, roof and tailgate. There are gloss black front and rear bumpers, extra-tinted rear windows and tailgate and discreet 'Gordini Series' badging.

The famous Gordini twin stripes

The upmarket feel of the interior

The sporty theme continues with its colour choice of three – Malta blue, with white Gordini stripes and matching details (foglight surrounds, door mirrors and rear spoiler), or pearlescent black and glacier white. In the case of the latter, the styling details are picked out in anthracite.

On the inside, the bespoke ambience continues. The Gordini 100 features dark carbon cloth seats with embossed Gordini logo and white stitching, blue door trim inserts with white stitching and blue leather-trimmed steering wheel with two white stripes to indicate the straight ahead position. The Gordini rev-counter comes in trademark blue with white background, while the gear knob and base share the same blue hue. The centre console is finished in gloss black, while the pedals are aluminium. The upmarket feel also crosses over to its equipment level. Standard kit on the trendy addition to Renault's popular city car line-up, includes 4x20W RDS radio with single CD MP3 player, Bluetooth and aux input, air conditioning, 15-inch Turini alloy wheels with polished face and black inserts, cruise control, electric windows, speed limiter and independent sliding and folding rear seats.

The stylish and economical new Twingo Gordini 100 will be ready to order in January

Features

The Twingo Gordini 100 can also be ordered with features previously unavailable on GT, including polished alloys with blue inserts and leather-faced Gordini seats with blue detailing. Other options include climate control, metallic paint and electric panoramic sunroof with sunblind.

The Gordini stripes on the bonnet, roof and tailgate are a no-cost removable option.

Under the bonnet of the latest version is the responsive 1.2 TCe petrol engine, pushing out 100hp at 5,500 rpm, with a top speed of 117 mph. Meanwhile, beneath the chic Gordini TCe 100 body, lies the GT chassis with stiffer shock absorbers and bushes, and recalibrated sports steering. Despite its dynamic on-road performance, CO2 emissions of 132g/km mean the Gordini TCe 100 qualifies for the Renault eco² signature, as well as offering impressive combined fuel economy of 49.5 mpg.

Crucially for a car of its ilk, and especially its appeal to younger buyers, its insurance group is likely to be competitive when confirmed.

Thirty years on from its heyday, the Gordini name and look still holds a special place in many people's hearts. Nine out of 10 buyers choose the blue livery, while only one per cent of buyers order a Gordini without stripes.

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Patriot now quicker and more economic

The updated Jeep Patriot has a more modern Mercedes-sourced diesel engine and new features

CHANGES to the diesel-powered Jeep Patriot SUV include a powerful new engine, improved fuel economy, greater torque and improved trim levels.

The current 2.0 Volkswagen diesel engine has just been replaced with a modern 163bhp 2.2 CRD engine sourced from Mercedes-Benz, offering a significantly wider spread of torque available from lower RPM.

This new engine boasts advanced common-rail technology with a turbocharged diesel, leading to significant improvements in power output (+ 23bhp) and torque (+10Nm) combined with an increase in fuel efficiency to 42.8 mpg (combined). As well as the fuel efficiency increase, CO2 emissions are further reduced. This leads to a lower tax band (H) which in turn reduces showroom tax and the annual tax burden.

The more powerful engine increases the vehicle's maximum speed from 117mph to 125mph and reduces the 0-62mph acceleration time to 10.7 seconds.

Serious

But it also cements Jeep Patriot's position as a serious towing vehicle, elevating its maximum towing weight from 1,500kg to 2,000kg for a braked trailer.

The new diesel powered Patriot will be available in the following versions: Sport, Sport +, Limited and Overland. All are powered by a 2.2 litre diesel engine.

Sport trim now offers improvements such as body coloured door handles, Hill Start Assist, leather wrapped hand brake and 'active' head restraints (front row).

Sport + versions now offer cruise control, deep-tint sunscreen glass, leather-wrapped steering wheel with audio controls, Bluetooth and rear view auto-dimming mirror with integrated microphone.

Limited models add Hill Start Assist, leather wrapped hand brake, 'active' head restraints (front row) and a six-way power driver seat, while the Overland version also gets a raft of high tech and luxury features including 18-inch aluminium wheels, premium leather trimmed seats with embroidered 'Overland' logo and rear park assist.

The new Jeep Patriot range starts at £14,995 on the road for the 2.4 Sport petrol, rising to £21,995 or the 2.2 CRD Overland.

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Saab shows just how to tackle the snow business

Swedish firm Saab is used to testing cars in harsh Scandinavian winters

WITH early winter snow predicted this weekend Saab has urging UK drivers to take necessary precautions.

Alan Cowan, general manager aftersales at Saab GB, said: "After the severe winter weather we experienced last year the thought of a repeat performance is fairly daunting.

"Difficult driving conditions greatly increase the risk of an accident and even routine journeys can become hazardous experiences. As a nation we're not really geared up to dealing with extreme weather conditions and snow can make even the most seasoned driver wary.

Simple

"A few simple precautions and a bit of Saab 'snow-how' can really make a difference both in terms of safety and confidence when out on the road."

Mr Cowan said Saab knew all there was to know about preparing for and driving in the snow and ice. "Saab is used to designing and building cars to cope with the Scandinavian winter, including putting all models through the famous 'elk' test to check winter handling ability.

"Whilst ice and snow are obvious hazards, it's often the 'invisible' threat of black ice which can cause the biggest problems and driving round sheltered bends or corners which are shaded from the sun are where black ice is most likely to catch you out.

"A tell-tale clue that you are on black ice is when all goes quiet in the car and you can't hear any tyre noise.

"If you find yourself in this situation, don't brake or make any sudden steering inputs, but ease off the accelerator and proceed slowly and smoothly."

He added: "Know your car. It may sound silly, but it is essential to know whether your car is a front or a rear wheel drive vehicle so you can react accordingly in icy conditions.

"Skidding in snow or ice can easily occur, even at relatively low speeds. If it does happen, never brake.

In the event of a front-wheel skid in a front-wheel drive car, come off the accelerator and steer the front wheels in the direction you wish to go. For a rear wheel skid, steer into the skid. ABS (anti-lock braking system) will help prevent skidding under braking."

Greater

Mr Cowan said the stopping distance for a car travelling at 30 mph was more than twice as long in icy conditions so "it's important to keep an even greater distance between you and the car ahead".

"Added to which, grip is at a real premium in winter conditions and a tyre with only the legal minimum tread depth displaces 85 per cent less water than a new tyre.

" If your tyres are on the edge of needing to be replaced, act now rather than run the risk of losing grip or aquaplaning on the road.

"Lights can quickly become caked in road grime when it's snowy and slushy and the range of your car's headlamps can be reduced by as much as 30m if road grime accumulates on the lens. Clean them regularly, even mid-journey in severe conditions, so that you can 'see and be seen' at all times.

"It goes without saying that anti-freeze is the engine's first line of defence, and it's really important to get this checked each year, regardless of mileage. Finally, minimise wheel spin when moving off in manual transmission cars by using a higher gear."

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2011 facelift for the popular supermini

Corsa range is refreshed

The Corsa has softer suspension for a better ride

Vibrant colours dominate the cabin

The Corsa has been re-styled at the front to give it more of a 'smiley' face and bring it in line with other Vauxhall models

THE popular Corsa has been redesigned to bring it up to date with the rest of the Vauxhall range.

From February next year the car will sport a fresh new face, trims and colours.

The Corsa, Vauxhall's second best-selling model after the Astra and a near-permanent fixture in the UK's top-three best sellers' list, has now adopted many of the premium styling cues from other recently launched Vauxhalls, such as the Insignia, Astra and Meriva.

The new Corsa features a signature chrome bar, carrying the new Griffin badge, stretching across the front grille, while a re-styled front bumper with a more prominent, wider lower grille gives the Corsa a smiling appearance.

Framing the Corsa's new face are 'Eagle-Eye' headlamps, which have also made an appearance on the recently launched Meriva. The units have a chrome finish and include daytime running lights as standard across the range. New chrome-finished fog lamps and housings complete the picture at the front.

Complementing the Corsa's fresh look are five new exterior colours in the range. Vibrant new colours also dominate the Corsa's cabin, with seat trims such as Steel Blue and Tabasco Orange brightening the interior, accompanied by a range of different coloured door trims, centre consoles, air vent rings and door handles.

Also inside, is Vauxhall's new optional Touch & Connect multimedia system, which replaces the existing CD60 unit. Touch & Connect uses a five-inch touch screen display featuring both 2D and 3D maps for the navigation system, as well as a CD/tuner, aux-in, USB and Bluetooth mobile phone connectivity.

Outside, the new Corsa benefits from new 16-inch alloy wheels on both SE and SXi models, while the 192PS VXR receives the option of a new 18-inch alloy wheel, modelled on the design of the optional 20-inch wheel worn by the Insignia VXR.

The Corsa's new appearance complements recent upgrades to chassis and powertrain

With its fresh new look, the Corsa is now a very different car to the one on sale a year ago. Before the latest exterior and interior design changes were made, the Corsa had already benefited from a long list of significant upgrades to its chassis and powertrains. For example, certain Ecoflex engines now feature Vauxhall's Start/ Stop technology, which has reduced emissions on the 1.3 CDTi (95PS) Ecoflex model to just 94g/km, combined with fuel consumption of 78.5mpg on the combined cycle.

Bushes

To maintain its success in the small-car class, Vauxhall's engineers also made important revisions to the car's steering and suspension set-ups. Softer springs were employed in the front suspension, mated to an anti-roll bar with new bushes and an increased diameter, improving ride and control characteristics.

The new Corsa range starts at £9,995, based on 2011's 20 per cent VAT rate. However, setting aside the 2.5 per cent VAT increase, which will apply to all cars from January 4, the new Corsa prices have only risen by between £60 and £75, depending upon model and, reflecting the exterior and cabin enhancements on all models in the range.

The flagship model is the SRi 1.7 CDTi, priced at £17,390 on the road.

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Suzuki to feature at Clothes Show

There's a chance to win a new Swift at the NEC

SUZUKI has teamed up with the 2010 Clothes Show Live at Birmingham's NEC on December 3-8 to become the show's official car sponsor.

Pre-launch activity was taking place at the Bullring Shopping Centre in Birmingham with Suzuki taking glitz and glamour to the streets with a catwalk event hosted by Jeff Brazier.

He is the former partner of reality TV star Jade Goody who died of cervical cancer in 2009.

Visitors to the stand will be invited to participate in a competition to win a prizes including a pair of VIP passes to the show.

For the show, Suzuki has teamed up with the cosmetic brand Benefit to produce a uniquely branded Swift to be given away as a competition prize.

Lucky

Visitors are invited to come to the Suzuki stand and enter their details into the daily draw to become one of the lucky finalists.

On the final day of the show, Wednesday December 8, finalists will be invited back to find out if they are the lucky winner of the Suzuki.

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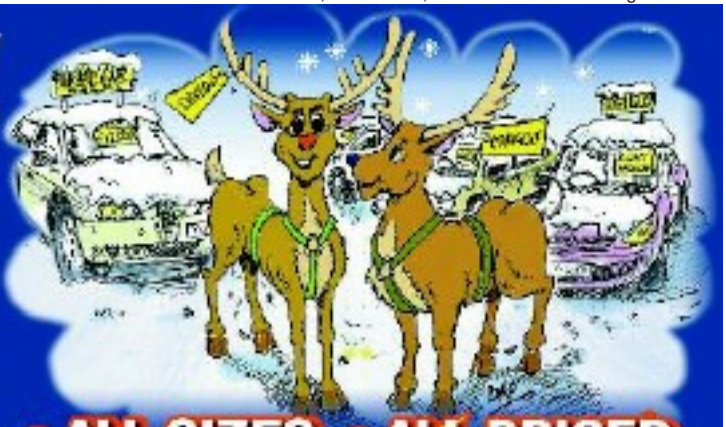

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Why leaves can be be your downfall

Drivers need to take care and maintain their cars properly

A lovely scene but roads covered with leaves can be dangerous for the motorist

AUTUMN driving: don't 'leaf' anything to chance, drivers are being warned.

The IAM (Institute of Advanced Motorists) has called for drivers to take extra care in the riskier driving conditions.

IAM Chief Examiner Peter Rodger said: "Autumn may be a beautiful time for a drive out to the country, but it carries its own risks.

"Hitting a patch of wet leaves can be as dangerous as running into standing water, when lower grip can reduce braking and steering.

"Piles of leaves could be obscuring a pot hole and with road surface conditions in a poor state after last winter, this is a distinct possibility."

The change in the seasons can also take its toll on your car.

Mr Rodger offers some simple tips on maintaining your car during this period:

- Clear out plenum chambers, the tray-like area under the bonnet, below the windscreen, as they can fill up with water when they get blocked with leaves. This water can seep into the car's electrics, causing expensive and potentially dangerous damage
- In cold weather, clear windscreens of condensation or ice before setting off. Always give yourself extra time, to ensure visibility is at an optimum before starting your journey
- Make sure your wiper blades are in good condition. If they squeak as they wipe, they probably need replacing, and always make sure they are turned off before starting the ignition to save the blades and the risk of a blown motor fuse when the first frost hits
- Autumn can also take its toll on car batteries, but some basic maintenance can help to prolong their life. Keep the top of the battery clean and dry and make sure the terminals are tight and free from corrosion. And ensure that the battery itself is mounted securely in its tray. If a battery is more than three-years old, check it now; you might save yourself many a frustrating start to a morning

Mr Rodger continued: "This is also a time of greater activity in the animal world; it's mating season for deer, and smaller animals will be on the hunt to gather food for the winter hibernation period.

"If you live in an area where wildlife roam, take extra care, and remember that deer tend to move in groups; if one runs out look for others doing the same and reduce your speed in readiness."

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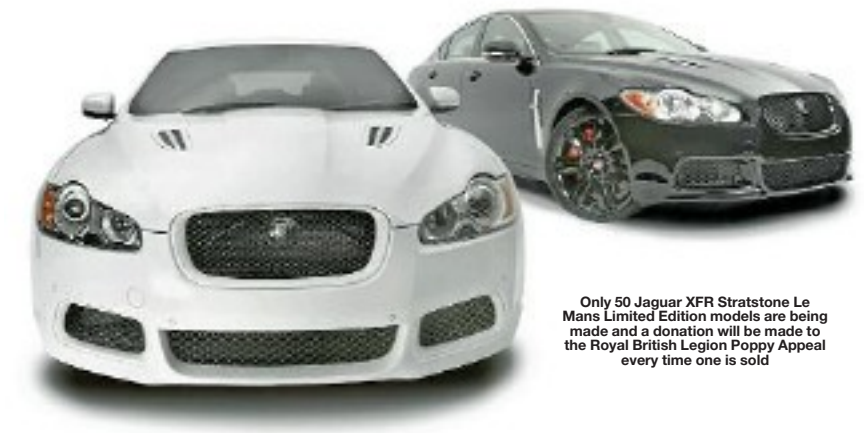

Only 50 Jaguar XFR Stratstone Le Mans Limited Edition models are being made and a donation will be made to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal every time one is sold

British Legion to benefit from the sale of Jaguars

STRATSTONE Jaguar, which has West Midlands branches in Stourbridge and Wolverhampton, has pledged to donate up to £5,000 to the Royal British Legion, raised through the sale of its limited edition Jaguar XFRs.

Only 50 of the Jaguar Stratstone Le Mans Limited Edition will ever be built and Stratstone dealerships across the UK are reporting exceptionally strong demand for the special edition.

Available in Polaris White or Midnight Black, the already striking 5.0 litre supercharged V8 XFR model has been given an extensive makeover by Stratstone.

The XFR Stratstone Le Mans Limited Edition delivers an impressive 510PS, achieving 0-60 mph in 4.7 seconds, up to a limited 155 mph.

Each model holds a unique number and is fitted with a range of Stratstone sporting extras to make the limited edition the ultimate sporting experience.

Interior details include personalised sill plaques, embossed leather headrests, a gear selector carrying the Stratstone Le Mans emblem, as well as piano black veneer with a dark mesh aluminium dash and soft grain leather with contrast tailored stitching on the instrument panel.

Supporter

Exterior details include a black front grille with a colour-coded grille surround, chrome finish twin bonnet louvers with supercharged script and 20-inch gloss black wheels with Jaguar R brakes and red centre caps.

A keen corporate supporter of the Royal British Legion and its work, Stratstone has pledged to donate £100 for every special edition XFR model sold nationwide to support the 2010 Poppy Appeal.

Given the unprecedented levels of interest in the XFR, Stratstone expects to achieve its £5,000 fundraising target within the next couple of weeks.

Stratstone's managing director, James Brearley, said, "The Limited Edition is the definitive sporting saloon and no detail has been spared.

"Already deemed a future classic, demand for this iconic model is exceptionally high which is great news for this year's Poppy Appeal, a very worthy cause given the almost daily news of the sacrifices our service men and women are making in Afghanistan."

In addition to supporting the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, purchasers of the XFR Stratstone Le Mans Limited Edition will also have the opportunity to join over 200 like-minded Stratstone customers for the 79th annual Le Mans 24 hour race in June 2011.

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Gear up for safer winter motoring

WITH the threat of another 'frozen Britain' this winter, motorists should be prepared for some tricky driving conditions over the coming months, and the Retail Motor Industry (RMI) has some suggestions for how to avoid accidents, cope with a breakdown or just drive safely over the winter period.

Poor visibility, minimal daylight hours, bad weather and worse roads conspire to make driving tiring, unpleasant, and sometimes even dangerous.

The Retail Motor Industry (RMI) is the trade body that represents motor sector businesses in the UK that provide sales and services to motorists. The RMI sees every journey as an opportunity to prevent the worst from happening and there is a great deal of preventative action that you can undertake.

Before setting off ensure you have:

Sufficient fuel for your journey; mobile phone and cigarette-lighter charger; warm clothes in the car; listened to the travel news and check the weather forecast.

The need for seasonal preparation also extends to the various systems that run the car.

Antifreeze

Make sure that the antifreeze in the car is fresh. Insufficient or 'old' anti-freeze can cause hose, water pump or other major units to fail leading to overheating. Anti-freeze should be changed every two years, or according to manufacturer recommendations, due to the deterioration of the corrosion inhibitors.

Spray a lock lubricant into the door locks to prevent seizing up

Heaters and ventilation

Make sure all systems are working so that misting is minimised – do not switch off your air-conditioning as this keeps moisture and condensation to a minimum.

De-icing

On cold mornings use a de-icer on windows, or a scraper – NEVER hot water. Spray a special carborundum powder lock lubricant into the door locks to prevent seizing up. Never use a damp inhibitor on a modern lock. Check that the screen wash is not clogged and that the bottle is topped up for use and make sure that an additive is used to stop it freezing.

To clear the windscreen use a de-icer or scraper – never hot water

Tyres

Tyre tread depth should be at least 1.6 mm across the central three-quarters of the breadth of the tread and around the entire circumference, and there should be no cuts or cracks.

Other things to do include:

Make sure the battery is in good condition; check windscreen wipers for wear and replace them if necessary; give all external lights and mirrors a thorough clean; headlamps should be correctly aligned.

Once the car is ready for winter, it's worth compiling an **emergency kit**, to be kept in the boot, so that in the event of a breakdown you're prepared

Useful supplies could include: Torch, spare batteries and bulbs; screen scraper/de-icer; warning triangle; first-aid kit; hands free mobile phone, phone card and cash; blankets and warm jacket/robust shoes (in case of breakdown); shovel (to clear snow if necessary); fire extinguisher; rope (for towing if necessary); road atlas, maps etc.

Lights

You need to make sure that the light settings match the driving conditions. As the winter months go on, drivers will find themselves using their lights more and more, but the use of the lights will need to be appropriate for the road conditions. If conditions change during a journey, alter your light settings accordingly. For example, if you use front and rear fog lights unnecessarily you will be breaking the law. It is an offence to apply them on a clear night, when they could dazzle other road users. If you set out and conditions improve during your journey, remember to switch to normal lights

Conditions

Separate from the issue of lights, fog is still one of the worst problems. Other culprits include rain, ice, sleet, and snow. All of these can lead to dangerous driving conditions, but cannot cause accidents without the assistance of one vital catalyst, usually provided by the driver – speed.

Speed

In the winter, speed can be your enemy, so winter driving means steady driving. Stopping distances double in the rain and these extend even further with worn tyres, when roads are icy they can increase 10 times. You should always keep well back from the vehicle in front, but in the winter you should be even further back. On treacherous roads, even if yours is the only car for miles, you should drive as slowly as possible in the lowest practical gear. Apart from checking your speed, you also need to consider the way you handle the car as a whole. Steering, gears, clutch and accelerator should all be used more gently.

Essentially, safety in the winter comes down to four things:

CHECK YOUR CAR
BE PREPARED FOR ANYTHING
BE CAUTIOUS
MONITOR YOUR SPEED

If you try to follow these rules you should find yourself on the road to safe winter driving. To make sure your car is ready for the road in the first place, book your car in for a service. Careful preparation by the motorist can only go so far.

With careful driving and proper preparation, drivers can travel safely through the winter.

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Character to fore as Wolves get vital win

IT was one win. But it might yet transform a whole season.

So important was this victory, and so overwhelming was the character shown to achieve it, that its effects could reverberate much further along the campaign journey.

After all those mistakes that have led to early goals and late ones to strangle the life out of their progress this season, Mick McCarthy's players somehow produced a performance that stretched every sinew and made Wolves fans proud.

One radio hack said if Premier League places were determined on character alone, Wolves would be in mid-table.

Try the Champions League because they turned this game around just as they were staring a 10th defeat in 12 games in the face.

The trick now is repeating it. They must use this hard-fought but ultimately well-deserved win to get something at Ewood Park before the derby season kicks in.

Stephen Ward leads the Wolves's protests and gets booked after Richard Stearman's goal is ruled off-side

Dragged

For now though, let's savour one of the most memorable performances of recent years. It was certainly one worth reflecting on, not least to pause for thought on manager Mick McCarthy.

Because, for all the flak he's taken and all the pressure he may have been under, who else could have dredged a display out of these players like that?

Just when Wolves were poised to sink to the bottom of the Premier League, they somehow dragged themselves – and possibly their manager – back from the abyss.

No-one, apart from Wolves chairman Steve Morgan, really knew how important this victory was for McCarthy. Certainly, chief executive Jez Moxey, the other directors and the players, see the manager as the only man for the job – and long term.

But ultimately, it's Morgan's club.

He was allegedly angered to the point of telling frustrated fans that 'changes will be made' after being confronted by them at Blackpool – whether the Wolves owner meant players, tactics or the manager is unclear.

Yet, McCarthy was sufficiently relaxed to say on Friday that he enjoyed the full support of the chairman.

And in a week when it would have been all-too-easy to show the strain, he displayed the normal mix of blunt seriousness, deadpan humour and no little colour.

While McCarthy fronted it all up, the owner of the car with the number plate WFC1 parked next to the manager's at Molineux on Saturday kept his counsel – and maybe even ushered a few words of support to his manager in his hour of need. And if that was the sort of solidarity between the 'Three Ms', then it was certainly echoed on the pitch.

Players talked before the game about being 'all in it together'. Well, that spirit was in evidence like never before.

And leading them, McCarthy – a man of big gestures. On Saturday he proved he is also capable of big decisions under the severest pressure with those four changes.

Wayne Hennessey, making his first League appearance in a year, produced two excellent saves.

But perhaps there was no bigger gamble than playing Ronald Zubar. The popular Frenchman had only played 67 minutes of a reserve game after six weeks out with ankle surgery. But he rose to the challenge.

Nenad Milijas slid into tackles almost as if he was the man he replaced in Karl Henry, while Stephen Ward – in for the suspended Christophe Berra – supplied a stream of quality crosses.

Maybe the biggest gamble was moving George Elokobi to centre-back.

But despite being booked for a deliberate handball that led to Kieran Richardson smacking the ball against the inside of the post and being out-jumped by Danny Welbeck for the second goal after he was beaten by Asamoah Gyan in the build-up to Darren Bent's equaliser, he was otherwise superb.

Bent's equaliser owed more to Richard Stearman's indecision.

But for all Elokobi's infectious defending, there was arguably no bigger heart than Kevin Foley's.

Unable to train all week after tweaking ligaments in his knee, he produced a real captain's performance on the day he wore the armband for the first time in a Premier League game.

Also crucial was his third goal in seven games to put Wolves ahead.

Excellent

The drama didn't end there, and it was a relief that Richard Stearman's 22nd minute 'goal' – later proved to be rightly chalked off by England's World Cup linesman Darren Cann for offside – wasn't a talking point.

Credit to McCarthy, too, for two inspired substitutions. By his own admission, Stephen Hunt has been poor for the last few games but maybe he can get his form back in dribs and drabs.

Certainly the goal he has been threatening for weeks was excellently timed as he equalised with nine minutes to go.

And who else but the ice-cool finisher supreme Sylvan Ebanks-Blake to provide the excellent finish for the winner?

Super stuff. Now they need to make sure it's not a false dawn.

Stephen Hunt celebrates scoring Wolves' equaliser and his first for the club since his summer transfer

Richard Stearman and Kevin Doyle congratulate Syvlan Ebanks-Blake after he scores the winner

Despite his heroics, Jimmy Walker cannot keep out Torquay's penalty

Now Walsall's cup fails to over flow

THERE is a grim air of acceptance hanging over Walsall.

A sense of inevitability grips a club who, while they won't publicly admit it, privately fear the worst.

Now bottom of League One, Walsall are out of all three cup competitions after early exits – two to sides a division below them.

There's a certain predictability to a Walsall defeat now. They have lost a degree of respect, which is evident thanks to the blasé way people react to their losses – this time in the FA Cup.

On Saturday it was the turn of Torquay to give the Saddlers a taste of what life would be like in League Two should they fail to beat the drop. It wasn't pretty – thanks to Billy Kee's match-winning penalty – as Walsall failed to stand up to the task – leaving little optimism left for the season ahead.

Walsall are in crisis and the board's public backing of manager Chris Hutchings last week – while admirable, expected and overdue – leaves them in a vulnerable position if results continue.

They had been afraid to conduct their affairs in public – which is their prerogative – but now they have nailed their colours to the mast they must share the responsibility for a wretched season.

Money has been tossed away like confetti, a rare thing for Walsall, with the board supporting Hutchings with cash, but it hasn't worked.

It's not even December and their main goal is beating the drop. That, as chief executive Stefan Gamble has said, is unacceptable and it is now indefensible.

They have won just three of their last 19 games in all competitions and it is open season on the players and manager, who neatly sidestepped questions about his future on Saturday. But the situation is unavoidable. While he has been let down by his players they are the men he brought in to improve this football club.

It is his team and with the money at his disposal – Messrs Devaney, Davies, Davis, Dickinson, McGivern and Reid won't have come cheap – Hutchings should have invested in the future.

It is the Saddlers' nature they start from scratch every summer and, in the past, they had got away with it – but not anymore. Finances dictate, yet the Saddlers are the architects of their own downfall and are paying the price for a refusal – and an inability – to speculate to accumulate.

Because of this they have missed out on a potential third round jackpot and are staring down the barrel of a gun which points directly at League Two. Seasoned viewers have already suggested the Saddlers will struggle to win until Dagenham visit the Banks's on December 28.

Oldham, Charlton, Southampton and Bristol Rovers stand between them and their Essex relegation rivals – the immediate future looks bleak. But while the players and manager will quite rightly fight to the death, sympathy is in short supply on the terraces.

The disharmony is growing to almost unmanageable proportions and while the board have recognised their mistakes over the past months there cannot be any more broken promises.

Supporters have suffered constant disappointment this season and the club are on the verge of dealing with a full-scale revolt.

Deserved

The visit of Oldham on Saturday will show the full extent of the fans' feelings. And if anyone was thinking the romance of the FA Cup would spark the Saddlers into life they were left wanting.

Torquay deserved their victory, it was an upset in terms of a League Two team beating a League One side but it was hardly a shock.

As Torquay boss Paul Buckle pointed out, there was a gap between the sides as six of his starting XI had been plucked from the depths of non-league. But the gap was paper thin. The Gulls won it when Billy Kee rattled in a 41st minute penalty after Darryl Westlake had felled Wolves loanee Ashley Hemmings.

Alex Nicholls had wasted the Saddlers' best opening while Will Grigg – in an otherwise bright full debut – Andy Butler and Steve Jones all squandered chances to level.

There was no purpose, no vibrancy to Walsall's play. Every touch was met with a worried glance – at times like this no-one wants the ball. They played like a team in trouble, disjointed and with little confidence. That must change or the inevitable will happen.

Toffees bear brunt of Chris' free kick sceamer

EVERTON 1 ALBION 4

SO, what was everyone worried about? In one ruthless display Albion regained momentum, re-wrote their record books and calmed nerves that were just beginning to tingle among some supporters.

It was tempting to declare 'the Baggies are back' after a collection of stunning goals earned them a well-deserved success from a high-tempo clash with the Toffees.

But in truth the 'real Albion' never really went away, despite a difficult month that before Saturday had yielded just one point from a possible 15 and sent them on a steady slide down the Premier League table.

While scores had been a concern, there had been little hard evidence in the previous five matches to suggest anything was badly wrong.

They were, however, in desperate need of a result as they arrived on Merseyside. And they delivered in style with the club's joint-best away result in the Premier League.

It wasn't the high-octane, swashbuckling Baggies that shocked Arsenal at the Emirates Stadium, but the sight of Roberto Di Matteo's rediscovering their lethal touch in the final third was a welcome sight for the Hawthorns boss and the noisy supporters who were so enthralled that they barely felt the cold on an icy north-west day. In fact, the match was disjointed for long spells, especially in a topsy-turvy first half.

The Baggies gave the ball away a little; their hosts gave it away a lot.

Yet, while the outcome might not have been vintage entertainment, the sides did conjure up an intriguing end-to-end contest punctuated by five fabulous goals.

And it was Di Matteo and Co who showed a greater degree of inspiration to emerge deservedly victorious.

Few travelling fans would dispute that a 4-1 conclusion flattered the Baggies.

But, having seen a 3-0 scoreline flatter Stoke at The Hawthorns seven days earlier, there was little sympathy on offer.

Brilliant

Di Matteo's battlers rode their luck at times and defended well at others and, when they needed a hero, captain Scott Carson was on hand to produce his best Premier League display in Albion colours with four fine saves at crucial moments.

There was even a brilliant goalline clearance from Gabriel Tamas to keep at bay a home side who, while they failed to inspire their fans with some spells of uncertainty, did enough at other times to apply real pressure to Albion's reshaped backline.

And, with the back door bolted shut effectively on all but one occasion, Albion's attacking players set about cashing in with the type of ruthless edge that has been missing at times in recent weeks. First to strike was Paul Scharner, who was moved into the heart of defence but made his most memorable contribution in the Everton penalty box.

Outstretched Everton goalkeeper Tim Howard cannot keep out Chris Brunt's free-kick

The Austrian, who loves facing the Toffees, despatched a thunderous header from Chris Brunt's 16th-minute corner to give the Baggies the lead after they had withstood some early pressure from David Moyes' men.

Five of Scharner's 15 Premier League goals have now come against Everton and Baggies fans will be hoping he can maintain his goalscoring form and be persuaded to continue as a centre-back, where he gave his most assured display since joining the Baggies.

That strike drew the Everton sting and, after a good save by Carson from Victor Anichebe, Brunt made it 2-0 with a fabulous bending free-kick that nestled right in the top corner of Tim Howard's net.

Albion surrendered one proud record, however, when Tim Cahill became the first man to score a headed goal against them this season, nodding in a Leighton Baines corner to give the hosts fresh hope just before half-time.

But the Baggies started the second half well and the key incident, when Everton were reduced to 10 men, arrived just before the hour. Gonzalo Jara was fortunate to escape punishment for a careless challenge on Baines but when, seconds later, Mikel Arteta stamped on the Chilean, Everton's midfield playmaker could have no complaints about his dismissal.

That controversy threatened to overshadow the rest of the match but, after a brief flurry of Toffees pressure, the Baggies produced two more memorable moments.

First, substitute Somen Tchoyi cut in off the left touchline, beat two defenders and curled a fine shot past Howard.

Then Youssouf Mulumbu exchanged passes incisively with James Morrison and netted from six yards with the help of a deflection off Sylvan Distin.

Mulumbu celebrated unwisely with the Baggies fans and his needless sending off for a second booking was the only blight on the occasion. But it could not ruin an historic day that put smiles back on Baggies faces.

BOXING

FOURTEEN-year-old Great Wyrley boxer Mitchell Roberts tasted defeat for the first time in his third bout when he controversially lost on a majority decision against host club's Tariq Mohammed (Aston ABC).

Roberts started aggressively in the bout at Great Barr Leisure Centre last Sunday (November 28), forcing his taller opponent up against the ropes and letting his punches go to head and body.

Tariq was caught by surprise by the strength of Mitchell who took the first round. The second round was much the same as Roberts swept aside the Aston boxer's jab and scored heavily to the body as Mohammed struggled to cope with the Wyrley boxer's aggression. The third and last round saw the controversy. Roberts carried on in the same way but then picked up two warnings in quick succession and then a public warning for use of the head.

Roberts then shipped a good uppercut, but replied with a good right hand that put his opponent on the ropes. Roberts then followed up with a good attack to the body, only to be given another public warning for carrying his head too low.

The bell sounded to end the bout and Tariq took the majority decision.

Great Wyrley Coach Peter Hickenbottom said:"Even with the warnings, Mitch had done more than enough to win. He is short for his age and the Aston boxer towered above him so every time Mitch slipped his jab he was almost at waist level.

"And why did the referee wait until the last round to start warning him about his head?

"He hadn't said anything to him in the first two rounds. But even taking all that into consideration, to win a bout you've got to throw punches and the only boxer in the ring throwing punches and scoring was Mitchell. We'll take a return anytime."

Meanwhile, Wolverhampton lightweight Steve Saville has teamed up with Wednesfield Football Club to get himself in shape for the first defence of his Midlands title.

"The Wednesfield Bomber' will put the area crown – after two years as champion – up-for-grabs for the first time against Amir Unsworth at the Doncaster Dome on Friday.

And Saville has enlisted the help of his local football club as an extra fitness tool ahead of fight night, offering conditioning work to the West Midlands League outfit's players in return. The 34-year-old used to play for the Cottagers, as did younger brother Craig, while older sibling Dave runs the club-house at the Cottage Ground, where a coach will take the team and Saville's supporters to the Dome on Friday afternoon.

Saville sees the players once a week and has established a daily routine of fitness training around the town, which starts at the crack of dawn at the 24-hour Pure Gym on Bentley Bridge.

Fitness

Then it's a quick pop over the road to the Chiquitos on site for a steak wrap, as red meat figures heavily in his diet plans for fights.

It seems to be paying dividends for the Midlands champion, who actually reckons football is a more dangerous sport!

He said: "I take the lads on a run with me as well, they have some fast runners so it's a good test for me. The team is doing well and, fitness wise, they are alright.

"I take all of them on the pads, I do a weights circuit individually with them and everything they do, I do. I know my level of fitness is sky high then. "Football work is very good for cardio and boxing is more hands on, so to speak!

"Boxing is obviously more physical but, saying that, I think I have had more injuries through football. I have broken my leg, cheekbone, nose, eye socket – you name it."

Saville v Unsworth comes under the section 'Last Chance Saloon' for the Black Country boxer, who has suffered four straight defeats since winning the title with a seven-round knockout of Baz Carey in 2008.

That said, three of those four opponents have been champions and Birmingham's Frankie Gavin was world amateur champion.

It's been hard going for Saville but he feels the tests against better opponents actually gives him the edge over the challenger.

He said: "This fight will decide what my future brings, but if I win I will be looking for bigger things.

"I am very confident but boxing is a funny game and you never know what's around the corner. But, if I give 100 per cent, I know I can do it.

"This lad has never boxed at my level and I reckon I will be too strong for him."

Wednesfield Football Club members gather round Steve Saville as he gets ready for the defence of his Midlands lightweight title

Coach unhappy as Wyrley boxer Roberts suffers his first defeat

BOWLS LATEST

Latest results from the Briggs Equipment Indoor Bowls League, November 21:

Division 1: A&G Parsons 21 M.Evans & L. Pritchatt 18; D.Hayward & V,Gray 11 D&G Storer 21; M.Jones & C.Johnson 10 K.Carter & C.Barker 21; C.Marshman & B.Preece 15 S. Edwards & D Murray 21;

Division Two:

J.Hollis & S. Powis 17 A.Tapper & J.Elliott 21; K.Handley & D.Chester 21 L.Hulse & P. Cook 8; N&J Newey 21 L.Cavill & M.Bardsley 13; P.Evans & T.Allen 19 F. Statham & A.Preece 21;

Division Three:

S&A. Baird 19 B.Taylor & G.Garbett 21; A.Allcock & C.Baird 16 N.Egan & I.Roles 21; M.Hodgkinson & P.Edwards 17 M&P Colbourne 21; L.Simonczyk & I.Platz 13 C.Pugh & K.Coulthard 21

Division One

	P	W	L	A	Pts
Storer & Storer	3	2	1	21	4
Edwards & Murray	3	2	1	13	4
Carter & Barker	3	2	1	9	4
Evans & Pritchatt	3	2	1	1	4
Parsons & Parsons	3	2	1	-6	4
Marshman & Preece	3	1	2	-8	2
Jones & Johnson	3	1	2	-14	2
Hayward & Gray	3	0	3	-16	0

Division Two

	P	W	L	A	Pts
Statham & Preece	3	3	0	17	6
Hollis & Powis	3	2	1	19	4
Tapper & Elliott	3	2	1	9	4
Newey & Newey	3	2	1	9	4
Cavill & Bardsley	3	1	2	-6	2
Handley & Chester	3	1	2	-9	0
Hulse & Cook	3	1	2	-19	2
Evans & Allen	3	0	3	-20	0

Division Three

	P	W	L	A	Pts
Egan & Roles	3	3	0	28	6
Simonczyk & Platz	3	2	1	15	4
Taylor & Garbett	3	2	1	5	4
Colbourne&Colbourne	3	2	1	2	4
Pugh & Coulthard	3	1	2	-2	2
Baird & Baird	3	1	2	-14	2
Hodgkinson&Edwards	3	1	2	-15	2
Allcock & Baird	3	0	3	-19	0

Youngsters make waves to win title for a second year

SWIMMING

YOUNGSTERS from a Cannock swimming club made a splash at a county championships, taking home the league title for the second year running.

Chase Swimming Club came out on top in the Staffordshire County League Finals by storming the final meet at Stafford Leisure Centre last weekend.

Twenty swimmers from Chase took part in 22 events against Biddulph, Wolverhampton, Walsall and Newcastle, notching 190 points in the last round to finish 89 points ahead of nearest rivals Stoke.

The competition was very much a team affair, with most events being relay races, while the age range varied from nine-year-olds to seniors.

Chase achieved 15 first places, 10 second places and four third places during the event.

Chase head coach Paul Grainger was full of praise for his swimmers who he said swam to their full potential throughout the evening.

Committee member Simon Murcott added: "It's a fantastic achievement for us and it took a lot of commitment from the swimmers to win the title.

"Lots of other clubs are much bigger than ours which makes the win even more remarkable.

"All swimmers achieved good times based on their own previous bests, so it is very difficult to highlight any individual. The praise really must be shared amongst them all."

Chase Swimming Club train regularly at centres in Cheslyn Hay, Rugeley, Cannock and Coventry.

They rely on sponsors for funding to keep the fees paid by swimmers lower than most other clubs.

Anyone interested in sponsorship, or for more information about the club, should visit www.chaseswimmingclub.co.uk

Chase Swimmers Megan Coughlan and Ben Woods receive the trophy from Staffs ASA president J Bagnall

Stillwater venues unfishable as the big freeze is upon us

ANGLING – sponsored by Archline Angling, coarse, carp, Game & sea fishing tackle stockists

THE big freeze has arrived and many of the stillwater venues are now frozen over and unfishable. I did venture onto the River Dove last Sunday morning and with the temperature gauge indicating minus eight degrees it was certainly "fresh".

My quarry, pike, were not in the feeding mood and proved elusive but it was worth the effort just to be out on such a beautiful morning! Never saw another angler though!

If you have already put your gear away until the warmer months arrive it is a good time to be checking and cleaning rods and reels. We offer a line re-spooling service and provide a full rod building and pole repair service. Make sure tackle bags and nets are stored in sealed bin liners to keep the mice out.

We have a fly tying demonstration on Thursday December 9 as part of our late opening evening. Andy Taylor will be on hand to help and advise with fly tying techniques. We will also be featuring some of the new tackle products for carp fishing. We will be open until 7.45pm.

Blithfield Reservoir is now closed until March. The smaller trout fisheries usually stay open throughout the winter, when sport can be great. Weather conditions as they are, give the venue a call before travelling.

Fishery owners, if you would like a mention, please contact us and all you coarse, game and sea anglers out there ..if you have an up to date "fishy story" to report please contact us with details.

We are taking bookings for the next fly casting course in January 2011 . To book a time slot and find out more please contact Vernon at Archline Angling on 01922 411205 ,or call into the store or email fish@archlineangling.co.uk

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sport

FOOTBALL: Wolves, West Brom and Walsall all in action as non-league and juniors fall foul of weather – page 82

ANGLING: Find out how the local lakes are fishing – see page 83

Hednesford and Chasetown fall victim to the weather conditions

PITMEN, SCHOLARS LEFT FRUSTRATED

HEDNESFORD Town and Chasetown were left kicking their heels as the wintry weather claimed both weekend games involving the clubs and their scheduled midweek fixtures.

Chasetown were expecting a tough trip to the Gigg Lane home of League Two Bury for an Evo-Stik League clash against FC United of Manchester last night (Wednesday). However, the game was postponed.

The Scholars were aiming to bounce back from the frustration of seeing Saturday's fixture against Whitby Town fall victim to the icy conditions. The postponement also scuppered plans to present the club with their £10,000 facilities makeover prize. The presentation has been provisionally rescheduled for a home fixture in the new year.

Frozen

FC United have proved the stars of the 2010-11 FA Cup with a shock win over league side Rochdale in the first round proper, and are currently gearing up for a replay against Brighton & Hove Albion for the right to meet 2008 winners Portsmouth in round three. The fans' club currently lies two places off the bottom of the table, but given their recent cup form were expected to provide the Scholars with a stern test.

No new date has been announced for either game.

The Reserves' match on Tuesday night in the JW Hunt Cup at Tividale was also called off. A visit to Nottinghamshire to face Hucknall Town follows on Saturday (December 4), kick off 3pm before the Scholars are in Challenge Cup action against either Newcastle Town or Chester on Tuesday (December 7).

The first round proper of the FA Trophy follows on December 11 with Blue Square Conference side Kettering Town the visitors to Church Street, kick off 3pm.

Meanwhile, Hednesford Town's Zamaretto League fixture against Bashley on Saturday (November 27) was called off. The Keys Park pitch took a light dusting of snow overnight. However it was still frozen underneath as a result of Friday night's frost.

A referee's inspection at 8.30am showed the pitch to be unplayable. The early inspection was made as opponents Bashley FC were scheduled to start out on their journey up to Staffordshire at 9am.

Tuesday's long overdue BCFA Senior Cup match away at Boldmere St Michaels was also postponed for a third time due to a frozen pitch. A new date for the cup tie is yet to be arranged.

The Pitmen are due to travel to Windsor & Eton this Saturday (December 4), kick off at 3pm before entertaining Didcot Town the following week (December 11).

DUE to very low temperatures, frost and down right horrible weather, no games involving Cannock Hockey Club were able to be played.

AND, the unseasonal cold snap also caused havoc for a Midlands based small sided football company.

Leisure Leagues, which runs community charitable competitions in Cannock and Burntwood – have been hit hard by the current conditions, and are being forced to cancel a number of leagues, costing the company thousands, subsequently threatening donations to a number of charities.

Every effort is being made to restore normality, but Senior Manager Chris Rowntree said it was proving incredibly difficult.

Dangerous

"Obviously the weather is far from ideal for playing football, and as much as we would like to keep the leagues running, in a number of cases it would actually be dangerous to do so."

Cancer Research UK, The National Blind Children's Society and The Dogs Trust are among the charities that benefit from Leisure Leagues, and Chris hopes the company will be able to weather the storm. However with reports indicating that more snow is set to fall, the situation is likely to worsen.

"We had the same issue early this year and it hit us hard then, but to have it this early in the winter is a bitter blow," Chris added.

A number of centres used by Leisure Leagues are being forced into shutting the gates on their pitches, including Cannock Cricket & Hockey Club.

"It's disappointing and every effort is being made to keep as many leagues running as possible," said Chris. "The snow is set to spread to the Midlands where we have a lot of leagues, but safety is paramount."

DESPITE seeing all of their club fixtures frozen off Lichfield RUFC managed to enjoy a productive week thanks to tips from the top of the sport.

Harlequins assistant coach Mark Mapletoft was brought in by Myrtle Greens coach Nick Sporcic to put the squad through its paces.

And the former London Irish, Gloucester and England player gave Lichfield a floodlit session to remember.

A club spokesman said: "It was an excellent opportunity be to coached by a Premiership coach and the session provided a great focus for the first XV in their first season having been promoted.

"We are hopeful of being able to have Mark back in the New Year for another session but we would certainly like to thank him for his time."

Lichfield will be hoping to beat the weather next Saturday (December 4) for the visit of Worcester Wanderers, kick off 2.15pm.

Teams are on track for indoor athletics success

Taylor Gills and Jack Green (both aged 11), Colin Traat, Jay Boora and Brooke Murphy (all 10) with Daniel Palmer (11), Millie Edwards (nine) and Dominika Filipek (10)

Pupils from Cardinal Griffin RC High School in Cannock who helped to run the athletics day for local primary pupils at Chase Leisure centre, in Stafford Road, Cannock

MORE than 200 children took to the track for an indoor athletics team competition which was staged at the Chase Leisure Centre in Cannock.

The event was organised by Cannock and Rugeley School Sport Partnership competition manager Nigel Camacho and 15 primary schools took part. The large schools competition was won by the team from Redbrook Hayes Primary, Brereton with St Luke's Primary, Cannock, the runners-up.

Hob Hill Primary from Brereton won the small school section with St Mary's Primary, Cannock, finishing in second place.

School sport co-ordinator Rose Brown said more than 200 children from Years Five and six took part in sports hall athletics events including sprints, relays, jumps, speed bouncing and chest pushes.

A team of 25 sports leaders from Year 11 at Cardinal Griffin Catholic High School helped with the organisation on the day.

DARTS

Rugeley darter Mark 'Mile High' Hylton

Hylton to face Beaton

RUGELEY darts pro Mark Hylton has been handed a tough draw in this year's PDC World Championship.

Hylton, competing in the event for the first time in his career, was paired with former BDO World Champion Steve Beaton.

'Mile High' Hylton will be looking to improve on his recent showing at the Grand Slam of Darts, held at Wolverhampton's Civic Hall, when he lost all three round robin matches, to Gary Anderson, Mark Webster and Wayne Jones.

But Hylton said he was glad to pick up vital big-match experience, despite the defeats.

"Although I lost all three games I'm happy to have played fairly well and I feel I justified being here," he said.

"I can take this experience forward and am looking forward to hopefully playing in the PDC World Championship now."

Hylton qualified for the World Championship virtue of his position in the PDC Order of Merit, which ranks players on their performances from January to November.

He finished 42nd, with the top 32 players seeded for the event and the next 16 qualifying automatically.

The final 16 players comprise of qualifiers from preliminary rounds.

The tournament, which carries with it a £200,000 prize for the winner, takes place from December 16-January 3 at London's Alexandra Palace

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